9
mao nanami
REAL GIRL

Mao Nanami

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CHARACTERS

Hikari Tsutsui

His nickname is "Tsutsun." He is an otaku who loves the virtual world. Even so, he is asked out by a beautiful girl named Iroha, and takes a shot at a real social life through this relationship. His kohai, Ayado-san, also confessed her feelings to him, but he decisively rejected her.

Iroha Igarashi

A real young girl rumored to be easy with the guys. However, she's serious about her feelings for Tsutsun, asks him out, and is in a relationship with him. She distrusted Tsutsun when he was kind to Ayado-san, but they have since reconciled.

Ito

Tsutsun's best friend and fellow otaku. After Ayado-san rejects him, he abandons the cat ears that had shaped his identity.

Ayado-san

A pretty otaku kohai who had her heart broken by Tsutsun. She became friends with Ito, but rejected him when he confessed his feelings for her...!

Ishino-san

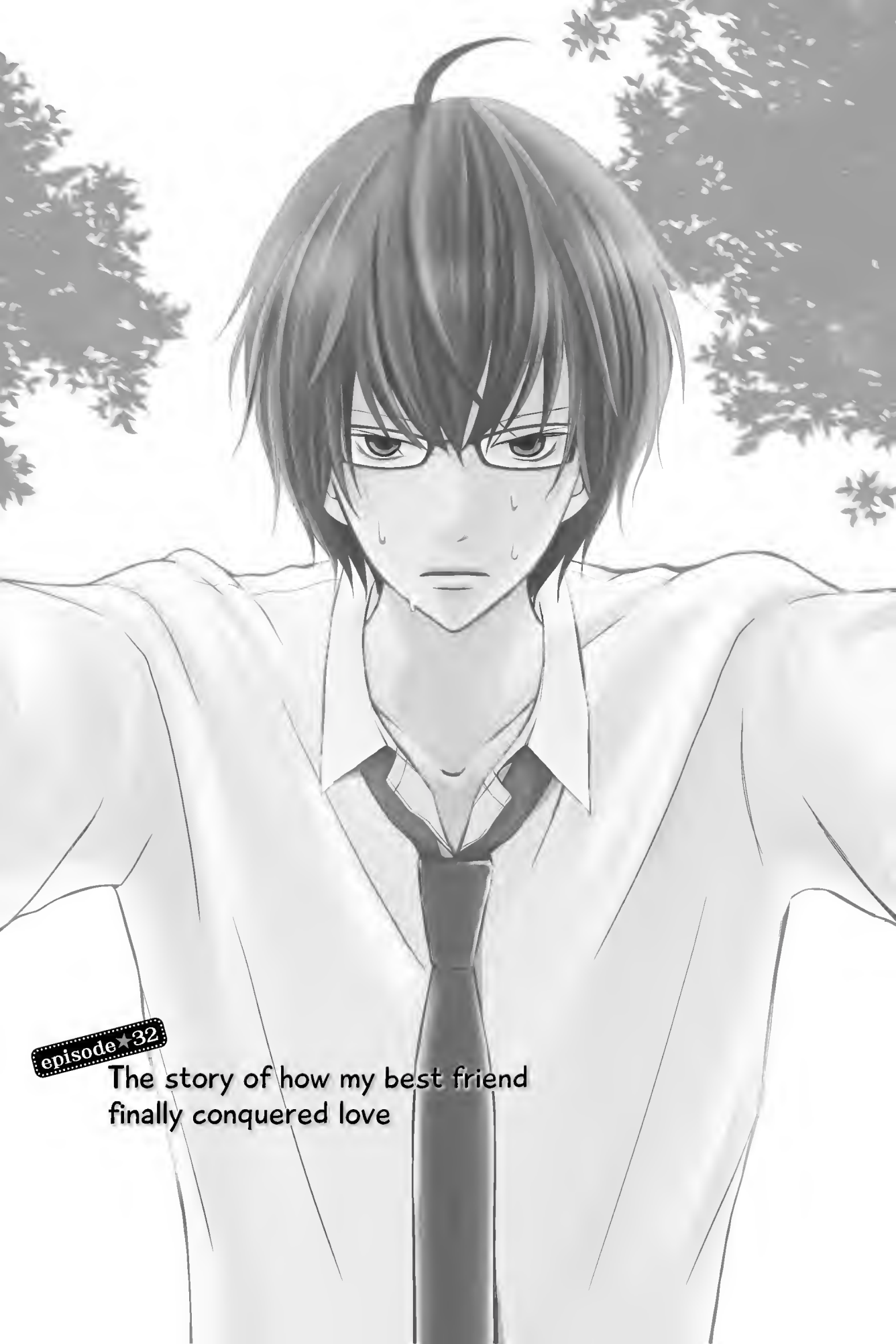
Tsutsun's classmate and reliable life coach. She's been interested in Mitsuya these days.

Mitsuya Takanashi

A vain "man's man" whose advances on Iroha flopped. He has somehow become friends with Tsutsun.

STORY

Third-year student Hikari is an otaku with zero relationship experience. Despite that, he gets asked out by a real girl named Iroha and enters a relationship with her. He's upped his masculinity levels and is living out a "real life" relationship to the fullest. He supported Ito's love for Ayado, but it ends in rejection. But Ayado-san, who rejected Ito, has a change of heart...



episode 32

The story of how my best friend finally conquered love

REAL GIRL

Hello.

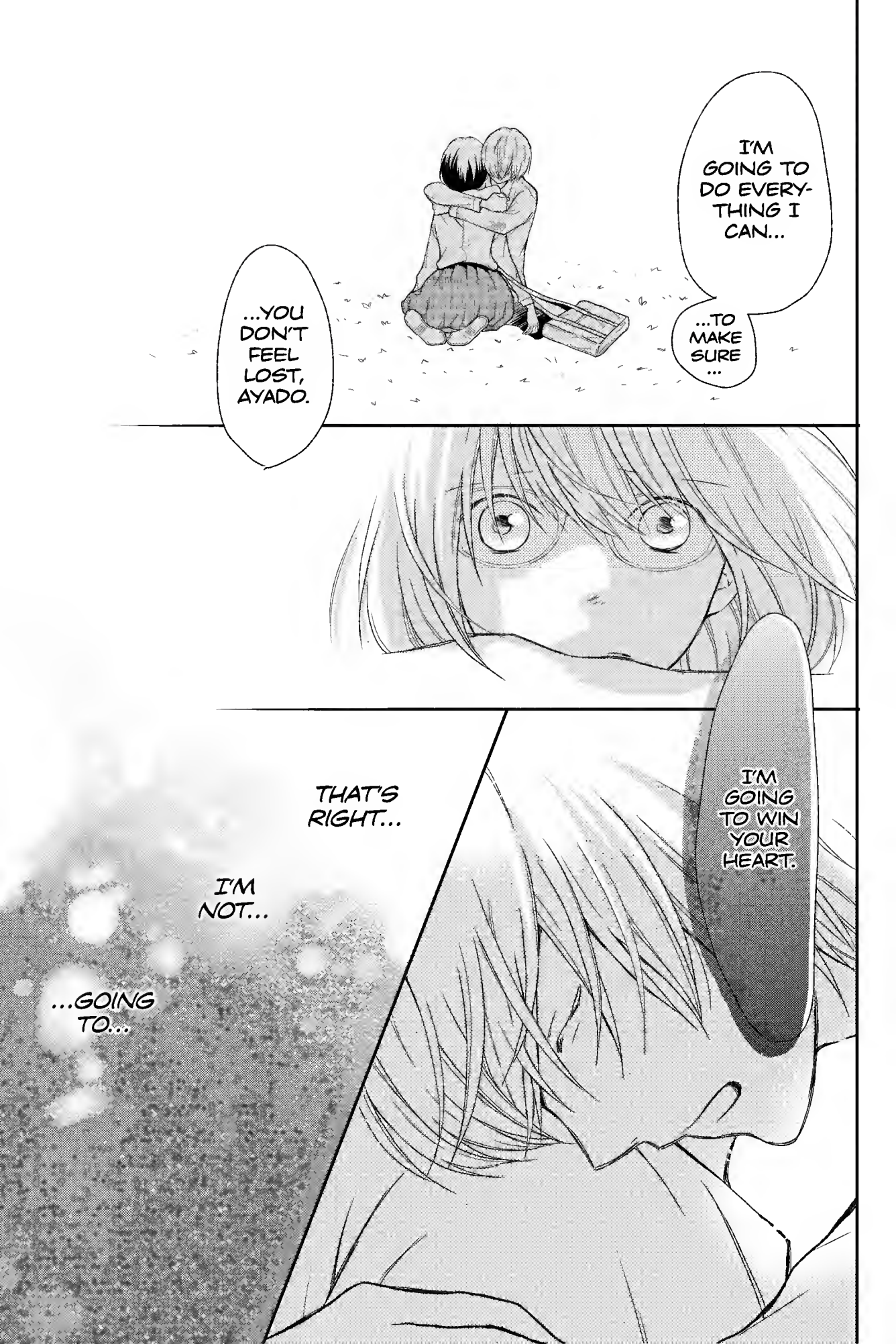
This is the author speaking! Since this note is making its appearance below an important scene, I will be subduing my excitement a little bit.

Thank you very much for picking up the ninth volume of "Real Girl." I deliberately drew a few full page illustrations for this volume, so I hope you enjoy them, maybe sitting cross-legged or with some sweets! I hope you stick around 'til the end!

WHA?
JOLT
THOSE TWO ARE DOING SOMETHING NASTY TOGETHER!!
UH!

UM,
I'M SORRY!
GRAB

I WON'T LET YOU RUN AWAY ANYMORE.


I'M GOING TO DO EVERY-THING I CAN...
...TO MAKE SURE...
...YOU DON'T FEEL LOST, AYADO.
I'M GOING TO WIN YOUR HEART.
THAT'S RIGHT...
I'M NOT...
...GOING TO...

...RUN AWAY, EITHER.
SEM-PAI,
I WAS SCARED.
LOVE ...
IT HURTS ...
...AND IT'S AW-FUL...
I KNEW IT'D BE EMBAR-RASSING, SO...
...I WAS SCARED TO GO THERE AGAIN.
BUT ...
IT SCARES ME MORE...
...TO LOSE YOU, ITO-SEMPAI.

SEMPAI,
I'M...
...GOING TO...
I'M SORRY THAT I HURT YOU SO MUCH.
...SAY SOME-THING SELFISH.
WOULD IT BE...
...ALL RIGHT FOR ME TO STAY CLOSE TO YOU, SEMPAI?

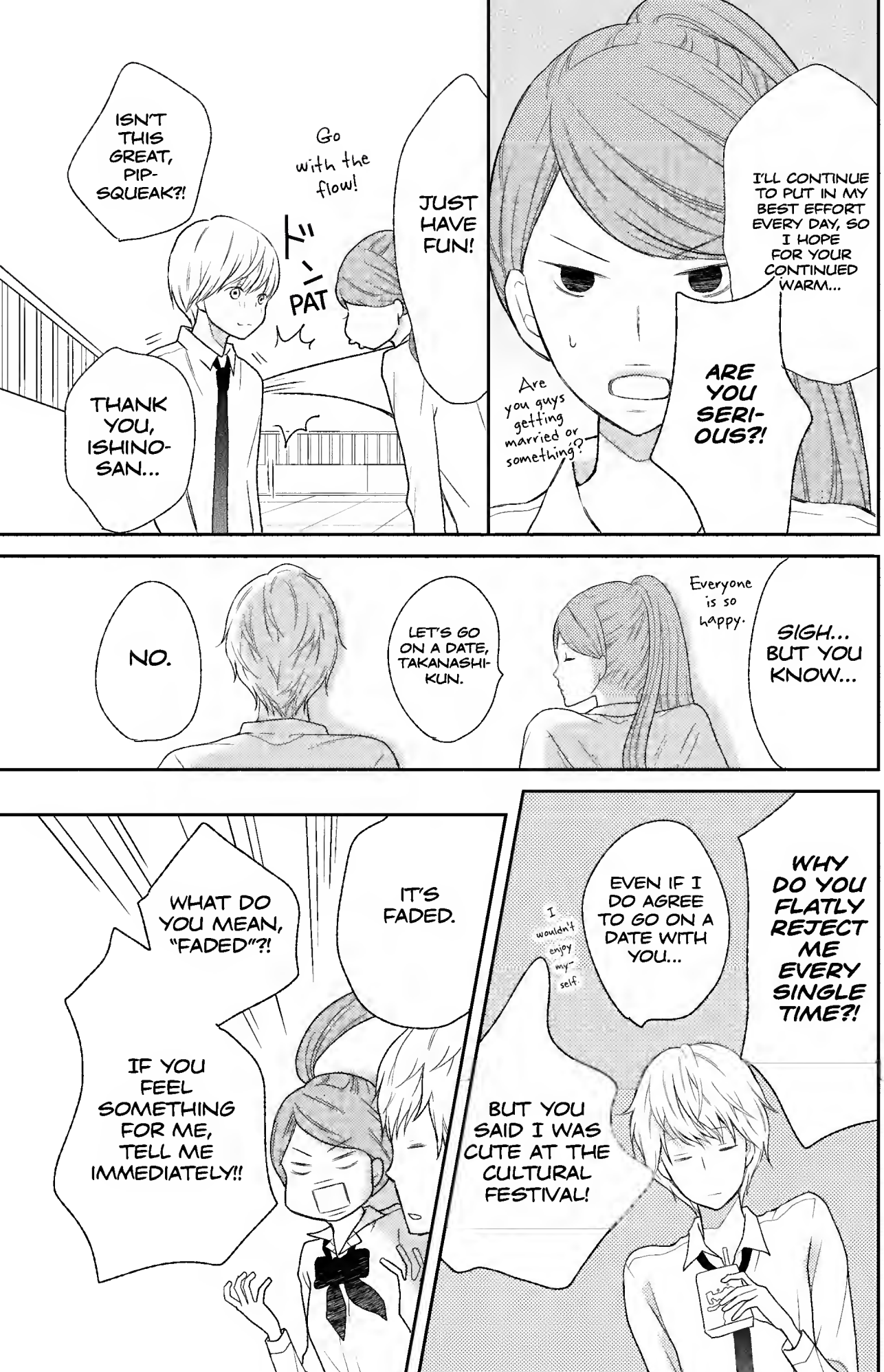
OF COURSE IT WOULD...
SNIFF...
クス…
OH!
SORRY.
I...
I'M SORRY.
SNIFF
SNIFF
クス
クス
H...
HOLD ON A SEC!!

I'M SORRY FOR RETURNING IT TO YOU SO LATE.
BUT... YOU'RE CRYING, TOO...
YOU CAN KEEP IT, AYADO-SAN...
NO!

UH...
SO THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED...
YOU'RE GOING OUT WITH ITO, RIGHT?
Why do you look like your dog died...?
ISN'T THAT GOOD NEWS...?
NO!!
I JUST CAUSED YOU TWO SO MUCH TROUBLE...
IT JUST DOESN'T SEEM RIGHT!!
...AND THEN ENDED UP WITH TSUTSUI-SEMPAI'S BEST FRIEND...
I'm so sorry!!
I WOULD FIRST LIKE TO BEG FOR YOUR FORGIVENESS...
ズーン
GROVEL
HUH? HEY!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, AYADO-SAN?!
HUH?
WHAT?
SO THAT MEANS...

WH...
WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING?
HEY... TSUTSUN DOESN'T REALLY THINK ABOUT THAT STUFF, SO IT'S ALL RIGHT!
Get up!
BUT...
I SEE...
SO YOU TWO ARE DATING NOW.
I'M GLAD TO HEAR...
I'M SO HAPPY FOR ITO...
HEY, YOU'RE GONNA MAKE AYADO-SAN FEEL UNCOM-FORTABLE IF YOU GET THAT HAPPY.
Let's be consider-ate!!
HUH?
OH, YEAH...
No, not at all!

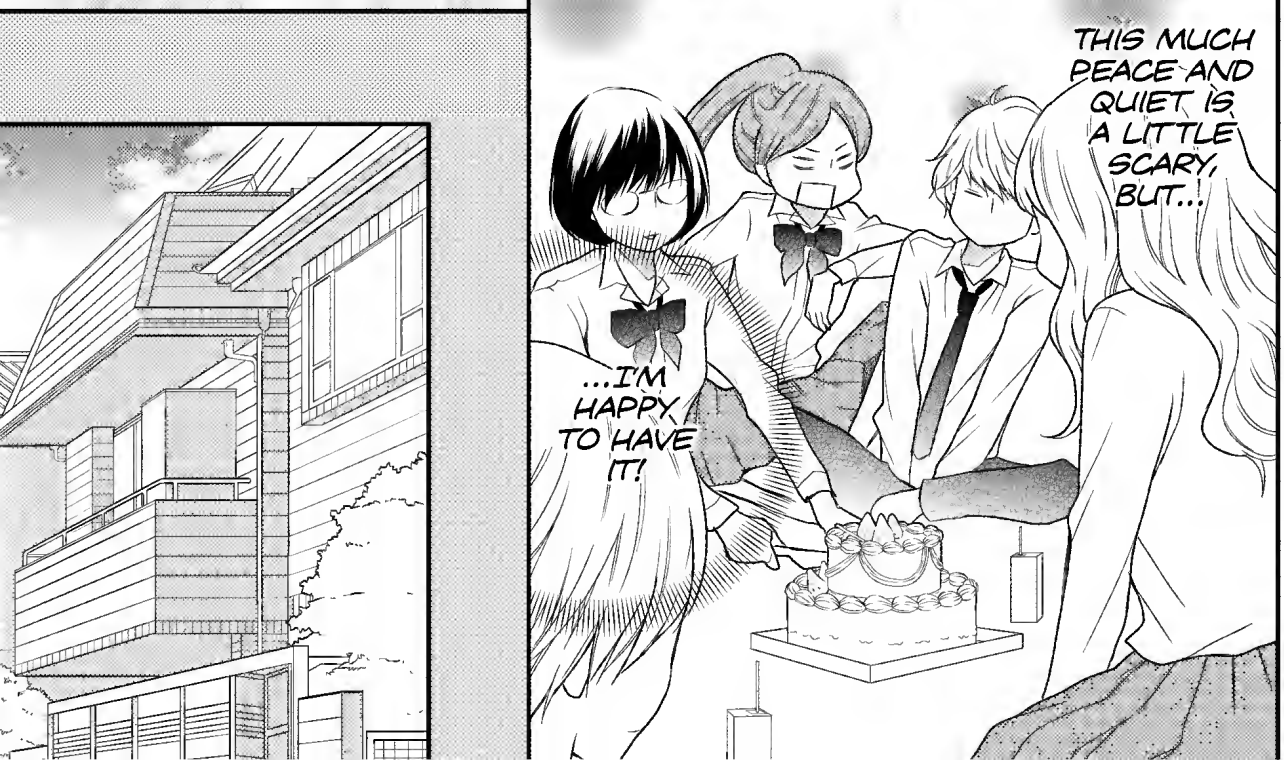
Cake: Congratulations, Ito and Ayado-san!

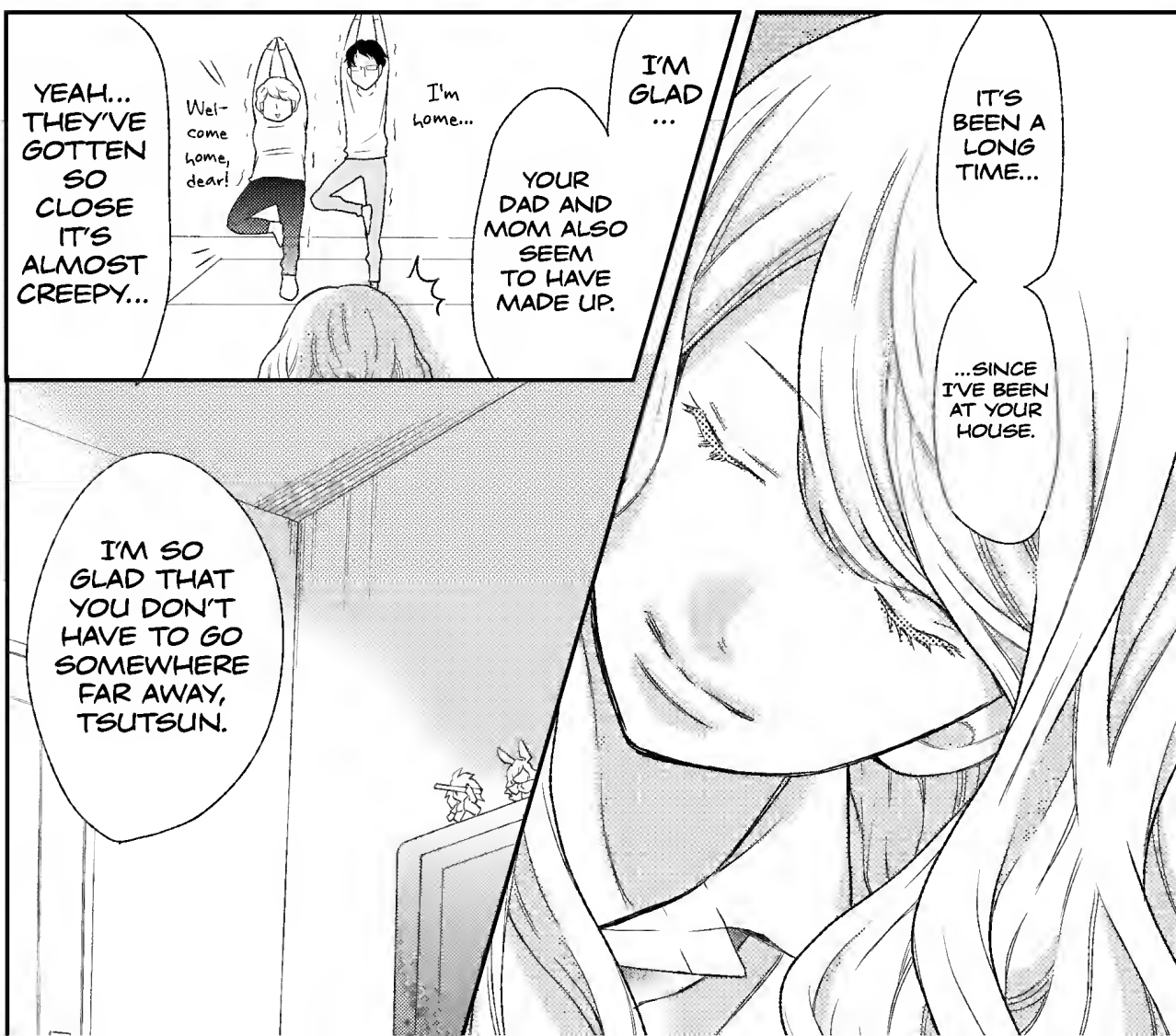

I'LL CONTINUE TO PUT IN MY BEST EFFORT EVERY DAY, SO I HOPE FOR YOUR CONTINUED WARM...
ARE YOU SERI-OUS?!
Are you guys getting married or something?
JUST HAVE FUN!
Go with the flow!
ISN'T THIS GREAT, PIP-SQUEAK?!
THANK YOU, ISHINO-SAN...
SIGH... BUT YOU KNOW...
Everyone is so happy.
LET'S GO ON A DATE, TAKANASHI-KUN.
NO.
WHY DO YOU FLATLY REJECT ME EVERY SINGLE TIME?!
EVEN IF I DO AGREE TO GO ON A DATE WITH YOU...
I wouldn't enjoy myself.
BUT YOU SAID I WAS CUTE AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL!
IT'S FADED.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "FADED"?!
IF YOU FEEL SOMETHING FOR ME, TELL ME IMMEDIATELY!!

TSU-TSUI.
SCREECH
OKAY, THEN, TRY TO GET ME TO FEEL SOMETHING FOR YOU.
YOU PISS ME OFF!
THANKS FOR EVERY-THING.
I'M...
...GONNA DO MY BEST TO BECOME LIKE YOU AND IGARASHI-SAN.
ITO...

THANKS!
Heh Heh!
See?! That's what I'm talking about!
WHAP!
ぺん!
MOVED
ほろり
I'm telling you!!
GOOD JOB!
What exactly do you-?!

PEACE HAS FINALLY RE-TURNED!!
AND I DON'T HAVE TO GO TO OSHA-MANBE...
THINGS WENT WELL FOR ITO, TOO...


...I'M HAPPY TO HAVE IT!
THIS MUCH PEACE AND QUIET IS A LITTLE SCARY, BUT...


IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...
...SINCE I'VE BEEN AT YOUR HOUSE.
I'M GLAD...
YOUR DAD AND MOM ALSO SEEM TO HAVE MADE UP.
I'm home...
Welcome home, dear!
YEAH... THEY'VE GOTTEN SO CLOSE IT'S ALMOST CREEPY...
I'M SO GLAD THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY, TSUTSUN.

IT...
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE WE'VE BEEN LIKE THIS.
YEAH.
HEH HEH.
ギュー
HUG

$a=c\sin A,\ b=c\cos A$
$\tan A=\frac{a}{b}=\frac{c\sin A}{c\cos A}=\frac{\sin A}{\cos A}$
$(c\sin A)^2+(c\cos A)^2=c^2$
$(\sin A)^2+(\cos A)^2=1$
$\left(\frac{\sin A}{\cos A}\right)^2+1=\frac{1}{(\cos A)^2}$
$\frac{\sin A}{\cos A}=\tan A$
$(\tan A)^2+1=\frac{1}{(\cos A)^2}$
UH...
WOULD THAT BE OKAY?
IROHA-CHAN...
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE DINNER AT OUR HOUSE?
WHEW ...!
ODEN ...
I MADE TONS OF ODEN!

I THOUGHT I WAS HAPPY JUST HOLDING HANDS, BUT...
GLOOMY モヤモヤ
...SOMETHING IN ME JUMPS WHEN MY BODY TOUCHES HERS...
I have to come up with a plan for this...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, TSUTSUN?
NOTHING!
WOW...!
THANK YOU!
I'M GLAD YOU'RE HERE.
YOU HELPED ME THE OTHER DAY, IROHA-SAN....
...SO I WANTED TO MEET YOU PROPERLY.
NOF AF ALL!
I DIDDEN DO ANYFING!
I REALLY CAUSED YOU A LOT OF TROUBLE THERE.
P-PLEASE, NO!

IF I HAD KNOWN, I WOULD'VE TAKEN YOU TO HOKKAIDO AS WELL, IROHA-CHAN!
HUH?
That's unheard of.
BUT SINCE HIKARI'S DAD DOESN'T WANT TO BREAK UP, MY HANDS ARE TIED!
あ
AH
HA
HA
Stop it.
IROHA-CHAN.
KEEP LOOKING AFTER HIKARI, OKAY?
OKAY ...
ADULTS ARE ALL SELFISH...

ARE YOU GONNA HAVE MORE ODEN, KAORU?
SEE... KAORU STILL FEELS HURT BY WHAT YOU DID.
Support him.
EVERY DAY, I WAS SO WORRIED I COULDN'T SLEEP.
I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOU SELLING ME OUT, BRO!
R...
RIGHT BACK AT YOU!
I CAN'T TRUST ANYBODY!
HUH?
Me?!
HEY! WHAT ABOUT HIM DO YOU LIKE, EXACTLY?!
THERE ARE SO MANY BETTER GUYS OUT THERE!
KAORU! DON'T SAY THINGS LIKE THAT!
iroha-chan might come to her senses!
YOUR BROTHER IS THE COOLEST PERSON OF ALL TO ME...
HUH? YOU'RE LYING.
I'M NOT...
WHY IS HE SAYING THIS IN FRONT OF HIS PARENTS...?
BLUSH

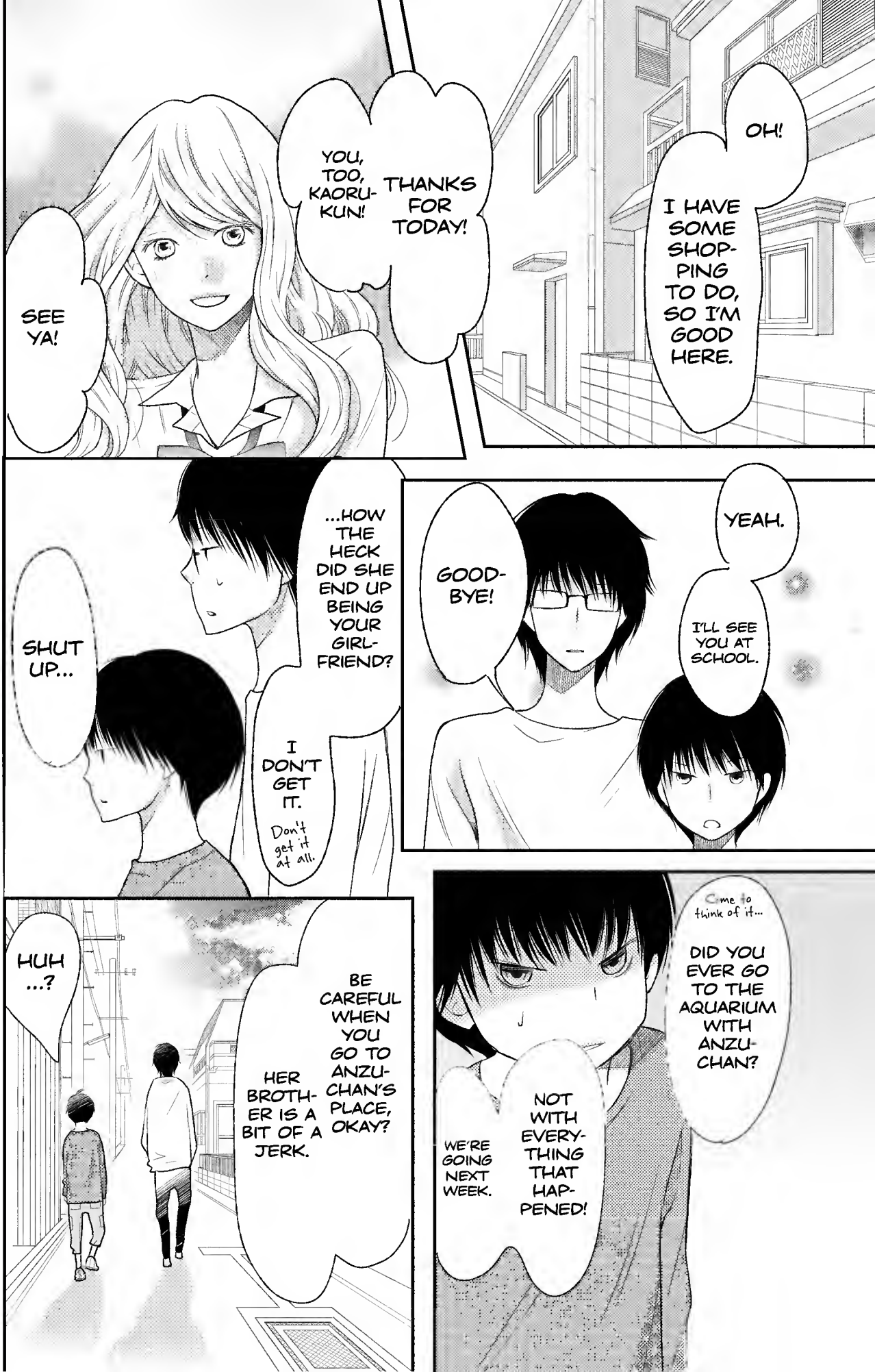
...BUT ...
AREN'T YOU HAPPY THAT YOUR FAMILY DIDN'T GET SPLIT UP?
YEAH ...
What a good girl you are...
YOU'RE REALLY LIKE AN OLDER SISTER, AREN'T YOU, IROHA-CHAN?
HUH?
YEAH.
...
I DIDN'T MEAN IT THAT WAY!
I'm sorry!

I HOPE THAT DAY...
...WILL COME SOMEDAY...
WARM
IT FEELS LIKE...
...SHE'S A PART OF THE FAMILY, TOO...!
SHRIEK
Kaoru's blushing. Aren't you, Kaoru?
SHRIEK
EVERY-ONE!
ゴス
SMASH!
NO!!
DIN-NER'S READY!
DON'T LET YOUR IMAGINATION RUN WILD!
YOU'RE GONNA GO TO HELL...!
HEY ...
ARE YOU SERIOUSLY OKAY BEING WITH MY BROTHER ...?
YEAH. UH,

WHY DID YOU COME ALONG, AGAIN?
I'M GOING TO BUY JUICE.
OH, I'M SO FULL. THAT WAS FUN.

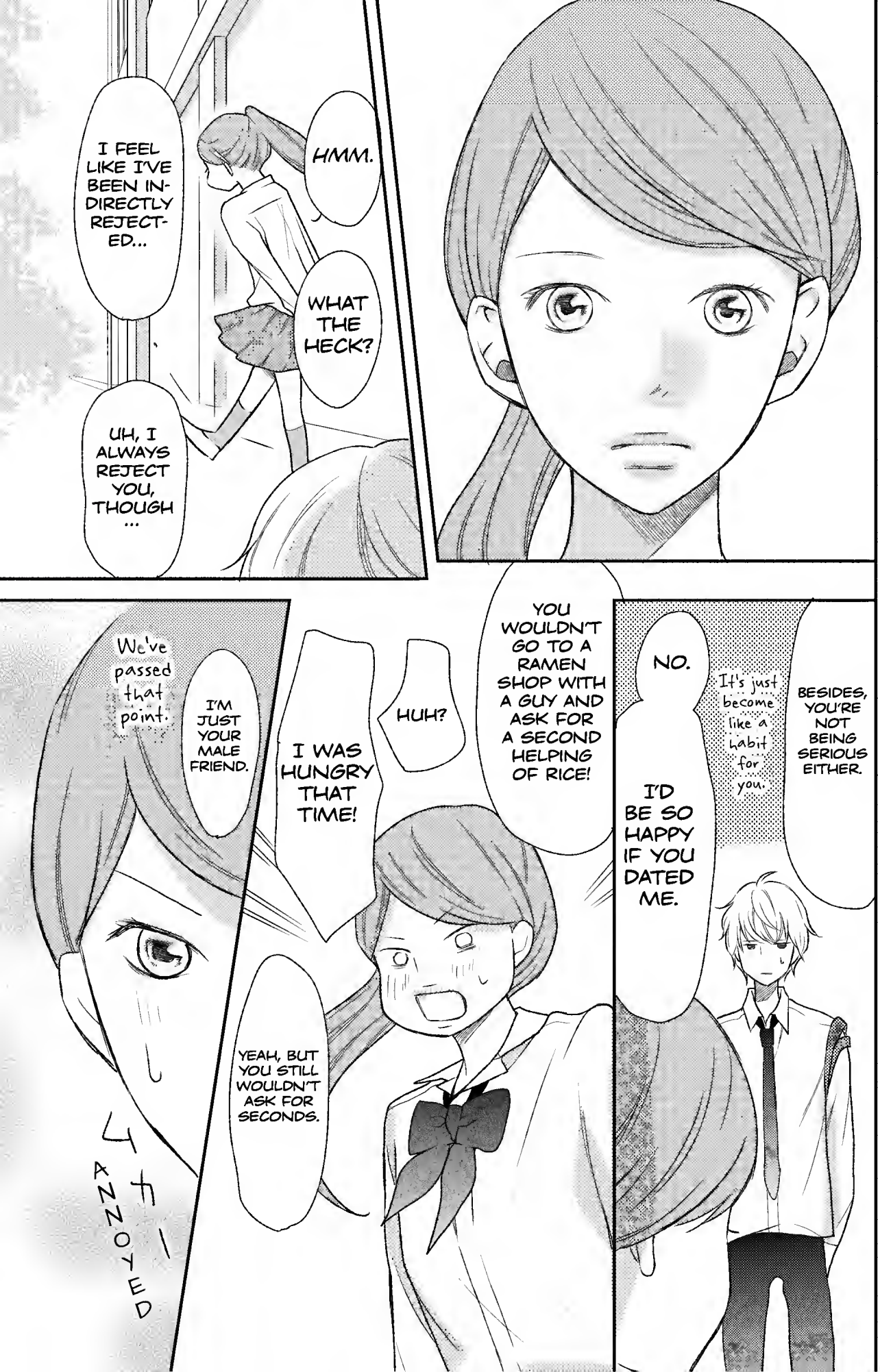
IT FELT LIKE I WAS REALLY A PART OF YOUR FAMILY.
I WAS SO HAPPY.

I...
...CAN CALL YOU "SIS" IF YOU'D LIKE.
I...
My younger brother calls me "iroha," so...
I'D LIKE THAT.
OKAY.
IF YOU MARRY MY BROTHER, YOU'LL ACTUALLY BE MY OLDER SISTER ANYWAY.
Y...
YOU IDIOT!
YOU DON'T JUST SAY STUFF LIKE THAT!
HEH HEH.
I'M SO HAPPY TO HEAR THAT.


OH!
I HAVE SOME SHOPPING TO DO, SO I'M GOOD HERE.
THANKS FOR TODAY!
YOU, TOO, KAORU-KUN!
SEE YA!
YEAH.
I'LL SEE YOU AT SCHOOL.
GOOD-BYE!
...HOW THE HECK DID SHE END UP BEING YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
I DON'T GET IT.
Don't get it at all.
SHUT UP...
Come to think of it...
DID YOU EVER GO TO THE AQUARIUM WITH ANZU-CHAN?
NOT WITH EVERY-THING THAT HAP-PENED!
WE'RE GOING NEXT WEEK.
BE CAREFUL WHEN YOU GO TO ANZU-CHAN'S PLACE, OKAY?
HER BROTH-ER IS A BIT OF A JERK.
HUH ...?

HUH?
TAKA-NASHI-KUN? ARE YOU HEADING HOME NOW?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
NEVER MIND THAT...
LOOK, OVER THERE.

HMM.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE HAVING FUN.
HOW NICE...A NEW LOVE AFFAIR!
I DIDN'T WANT TO WALK PAST THEM, SO...
I'VE JUST BEEN WATCH-ING.
TAKA-NASHI-KUN, YOU TOO WILL WANT A GIIIRL-FRIEND... A GIIIRL-FRIEND.
NO.
WHY NOT?!
PEOPLE NORMAL-LY WANT ONE!
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT.
FOR NOW ...
I'M HAPPY JUST MEETING UP WITH A FEW SEXY GIRLS HERE AND THERE...
WHOA, YOU'RE THE WORST ...
I DON'T WANT TO RUSH INTO HAVING A GIRL-FRIEND.
I HAVEN'T FALLEN FOR ANYBODY YET, OR REALLY WANTED ANYONE TO BE MY GIRLFRIEND.

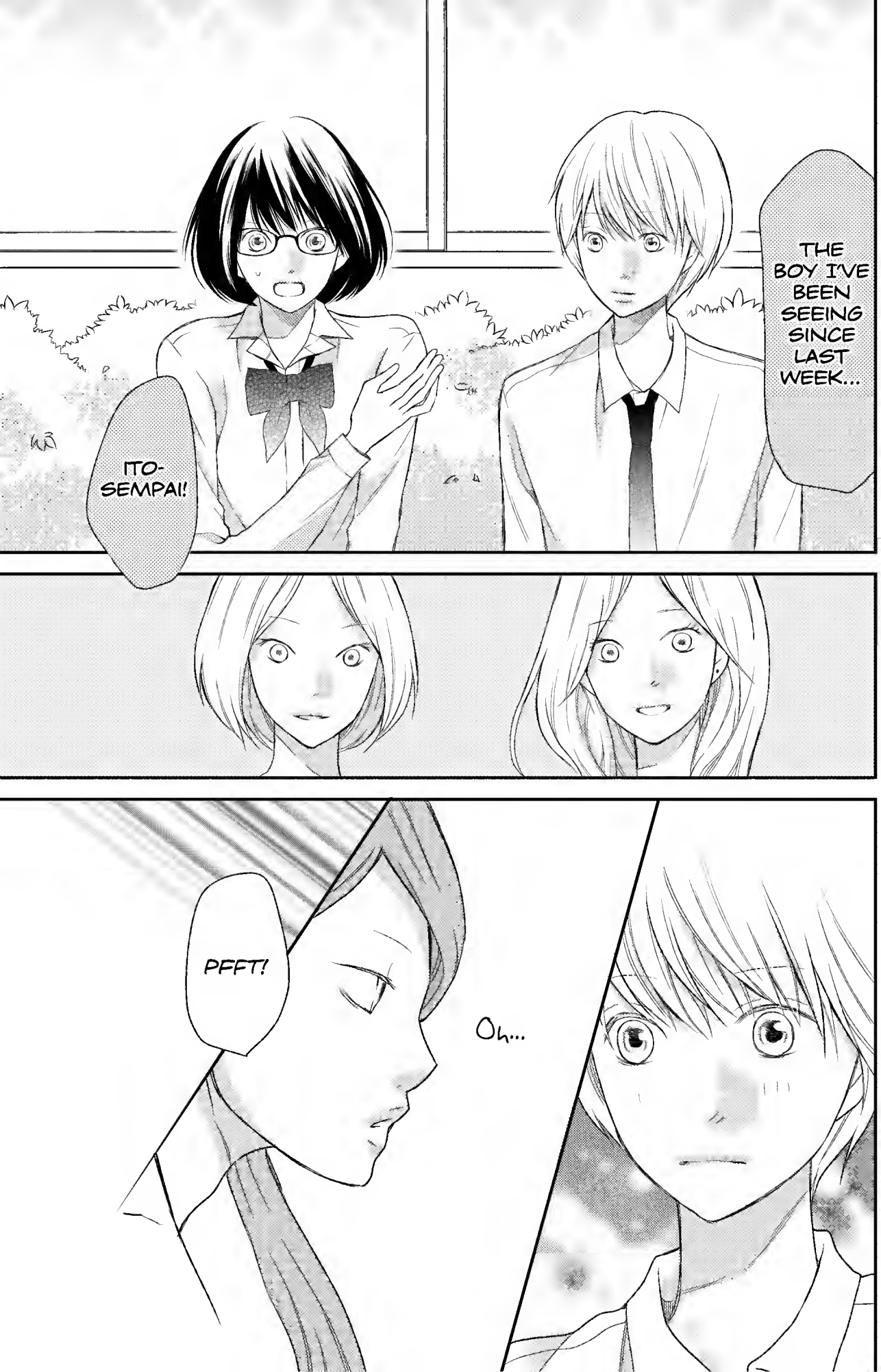

I FEEL LIKE I'VE BEEN INDIRECTLY REJECTED...
HMM.
WHAT THE HECK?
UH, I ALWAYS REJECT YOU, THOUGH ...
BESIDES, YOU'RE NOT BEING SERIOUS EITHER.
It's just become like a habit for you.
NO.
I'D BE SO HAPPY IF YOU DATED ME.
YOU WOULDN'T GO TO A RAMEN SHOP WITH A GUY AND ASK FOR A SECOND HELPING OF RICE!
HUH?
I WAS HUNGRY THAT TIME!
YEAH, BUT YOU STILL WOULDN'T ASK FOR SECONDS.
I'M JUST YOUR MALE FRIEND.
We've passed that point.
ANNOYED

BAM
OH MY GOD, I'VE JUST ABOUT HAD IT!
HM ...?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? IS THIS POPULAR NOWA-DAYS?
AND IT'S USUALLY THE OTHER WAY AROUND ...
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO GET YOU TO LIKE ME?

I THINK MY HEART MIGHT'VE SKIPPED A BEAT JUST NOW.
UH, HEY ...
HUH?
REAL-LY?
(O)あっ BLUSH
YEAH. JUST LIKE THAT.
YOU LIKE THIS VIBE?
Really?!
YEAH, THE SUDDEN SHIFT IN PERSON-ALITY IS KINDA NICE.
AND YOUR EXPRES-SION WAS A LITTLE SORROW-FUL...
I SEE WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
Huhhh?!
YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME!
I'VE HAD IT!

NO WAY!
UH...
HUH?
DID YOU GET A BOY-FRIEND, AYADO?!
THAT'S SO COOL!
UH,
UM ...
THESE ARE MY CLASS-MATES,
TAJIMA-SAN AND YAMANO-SAN.
AND ...

TH...
THIS IS...


THE BOY I'VE BEEN SEEING SINCE LAST WEEK...
ITO-SEMPAI!
PFFT!
Oh...

I'm relieved!
YOU'RE ALWAYS READING MANGA IN CLASS, SO...
WOW, I GUESS YOU ARE INTERESTED IN ACTUAL HUMAN BEINGS!
YOU DON'T HAVE TO INTRODUCE HIM TO US!
BAHAHAHA!
YANK
DON'T MAKE FUN OF THEM!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
ISN'T THAT A RELIEF, AYADO?!
IT'S FINE! YOU TWO SEEM LIKE A GOOD MATCH!

I...
ISHINO!
SEMPAI! SAN!
There she goes, meddling in other people's affairs...
THEY'RE DOING THEIR BEST LIVING THEIR LIVES.
YOU SHOULD BE DOING YOUR BEST LIVING YOURS!
HEY!
OW! OUCH!
DON'T LAUGH AT PEOPLE YOU BARELY KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT!
YOU IDIOT!
I...
ISHINO-SEMPAI...

WH...
WHAT THE HELL ?!
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?
WHAT DOES AN OLD HAG LIKE YOU KNOW ?!
HUH HH?!
"OLD HAG" ?!
YOU WANNA GO? C'MON! I MAY LOOK SMALL, BUT...
I'M A HUGE JACKIE CHAN FAN!
SHOVE
TA...
TAKA-NASHI-KUN...
TAKA-NASHI-SEMPAI!
A LADY SHOULD NOT FIGHT!
OR USE FOUL LAN-GUAGE LIKE THAT.
Or strike kung-fu poses.
THIS IS EXACTLY WHY I'M NOT INTO YOU!

TAKA-NASHI-SEM-PAI.
DO YOU KNOW AYADO?
YEAH.
THEY'RE JUST BEGINNING THEIR RELATION-SHIP, SO RIGHT NOW IS A VERY IMPORTANT TIME FOR THEM.
BE NICE, OKAY?
UH...
THANK YOU...!
TAKA-NASHI-KUN...!
HON-ESTLY ...
YOU ALWAYS STICK YOUR NOSE WHERE IT DOESN'T BELONG, ISHINO-SAN.
OH WELL, I CAN'T HELP IT!

I HAVE TOO MUCH TIME ON MY HANDS.
AND I'M NOT POPULAR.
I NEVER SAID THAT.
Never.
JUST FOR TODAY, I'LL GO ON A DATE WITH YOU.
HUH ?!
AL-THOUGH IT'LL JUST BE RAMEN.
AGAIN ?!

episode★33

The story of my female friend Ishino-san's love

We're in the ninth volume! Ninth! Frankly, I've been deeply absorbed in my work, so I only had a vague idea that each volume was getting done quickly, but when I started work on this volume, I was so surprised to realize that we were already on number nine! As long as the series doesn't get discontinued, the tenth volume will be released this year. Looking back now, four years have passed since the release of the first volume. I had no idea. Being a sloppy type B personality, I can't believe that I've been able to keep this series up like this.

OH SHOOT!
GASP
EXCUSE ME, BUT PLEASE MAKE THAT HALF A BOWL OF RICE ...
But you're still eating more.
DON'T JUDGE ME! I'M HUN-GRIEST AT THIS TIME OF DAY!
Here you go.
WELL, YOU DO SEEM TO WASTE A LOT OF ENERGY.
Eat as much as you want...
I FEEL LIKE YOU'RE MAKING FUN OF ME AGAIN...
WELL, I THINK YOU COULD USE A BIT MORE ENERGY, TAKA-NASHI-KUN!
MM ... I DON'T REALLY HAVE ANY-WHERE TO USE IT...
Right now ...
AHHHH!
IT'S ALL USED UP.

SO YOU'VE NEVER, LIKE, BEEN PASSION-ATE ABOUT ANY-THING?
How boring!
I HAVE.
IT WAS BACK IN JUNIOR HIGH...
...BUT I HAVE FELT PASSION-ATE BEFORE.
SO WHAT EX-ACTLY WERE YOU-
NOT TELL-ING!
JOLT
WHA ?!
WHAT'S WITH THAT EVASIVE RESPONSE! NOW I'M CURIOUS!
POUT
OH.
THERE YOU GO, POUTING AGAIN.

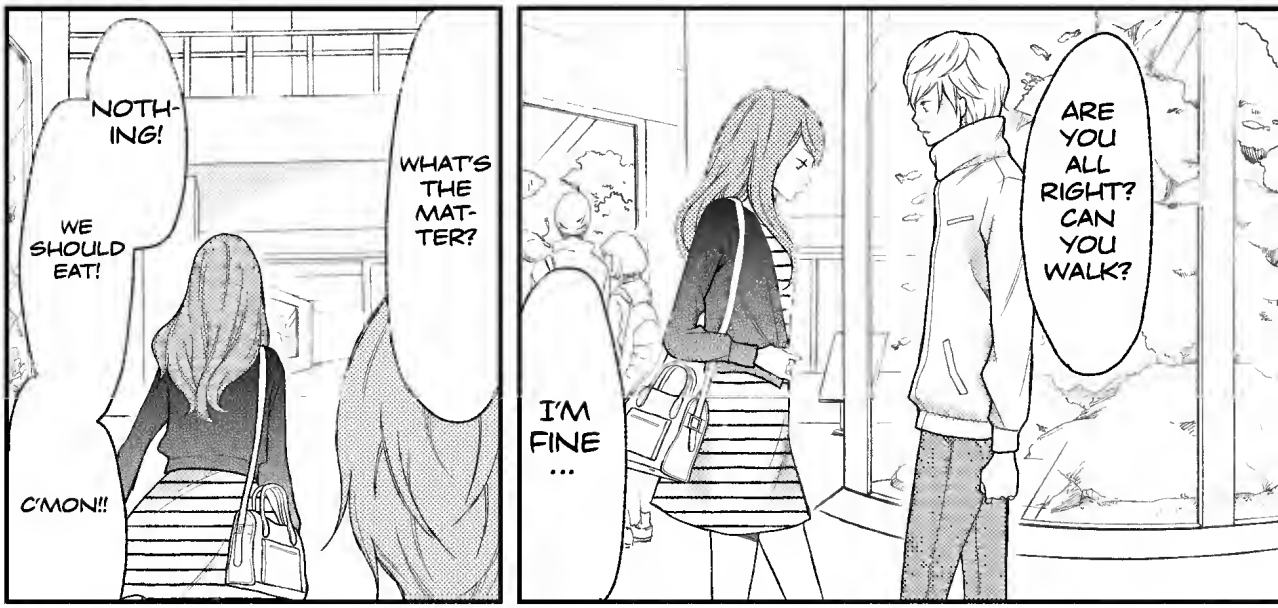
SIGH. HONESTLY...
THIS ISN'T EVEN A DATE.
WHAT? DO YOU NOT LIKE IT?
I SURE AM!
Sign: Ichiban
MM...
OKAY, THEN, WANNA GIVE IT A TRY?
If that'll make you happy.
HUH? SERIOUSLY?
UHH...
For asking someone on a date, you sure are unenthusiastic.
GO ON AN ACTUAL DATE?
水族館
Sign: Aquarium

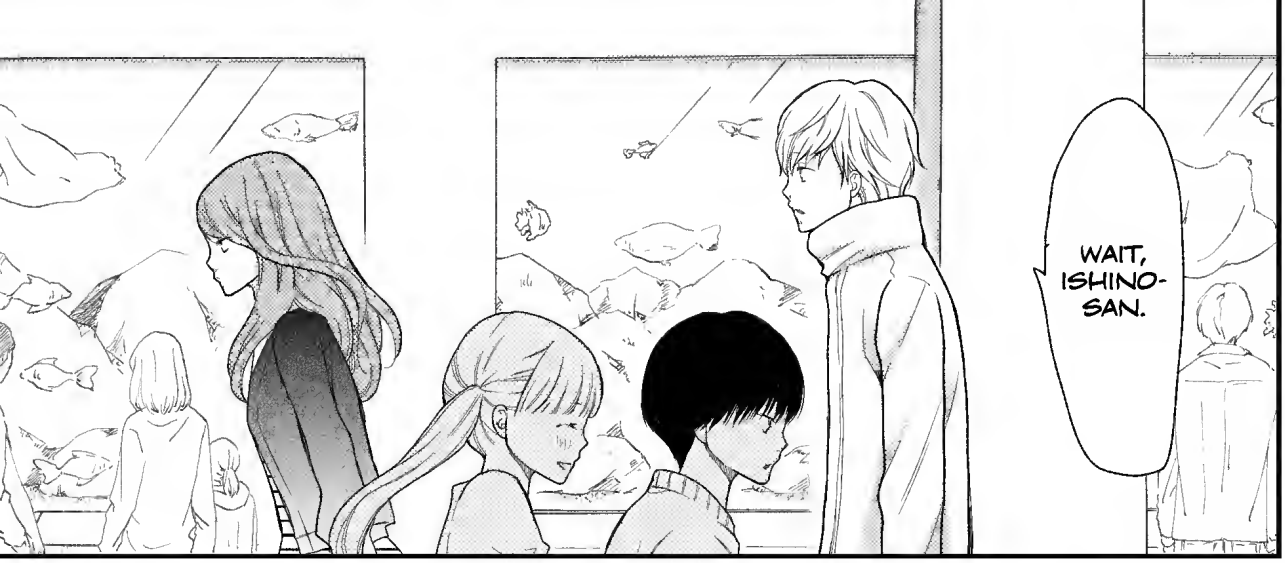
WHOA!
LOOK AT THAT OVER THERE!
IT'S HUGE, TAKANASHI-KUN!
NOT SO LOUD, ISHINO-SAN.
OH! THAT'S AN EEL, APPARENTLY!
GROSS, ISN'T IT?
うにょーん!
WRIGGLE
ARE YOU GONNA BE THIS ENERGETIC FOR THE WHOLE DAY...?
WELL, I HAVEN'T BEEN TO AN AQUARIUM IN A LONG TIME!
Or on an actual date, for that matter!

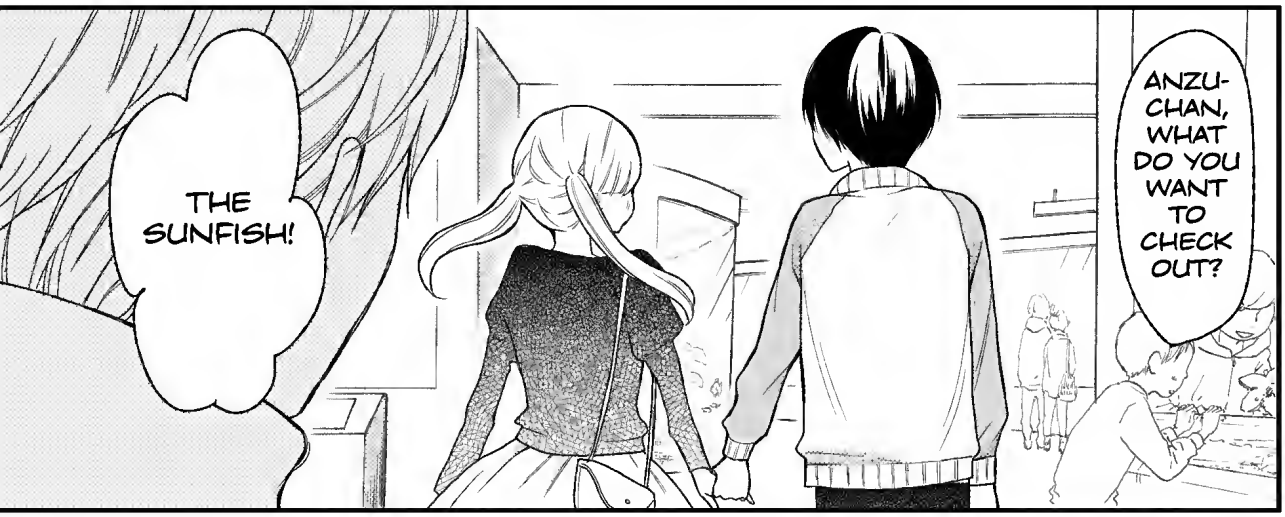
LET'S GO OVER THERE NEXT!
UH,
HOLD ON.
ARE WE HOLDING HANDS ...?
OF COURSE WE ARE! WE'RE ON A DATE!
SORRY ...
I'D RATHER NOT... IT FEELS AWKWARD...
WHAT'S WRONG WITH HOLDING HANDS?! GOD, YOU'RE SO STAND-OFFISH!

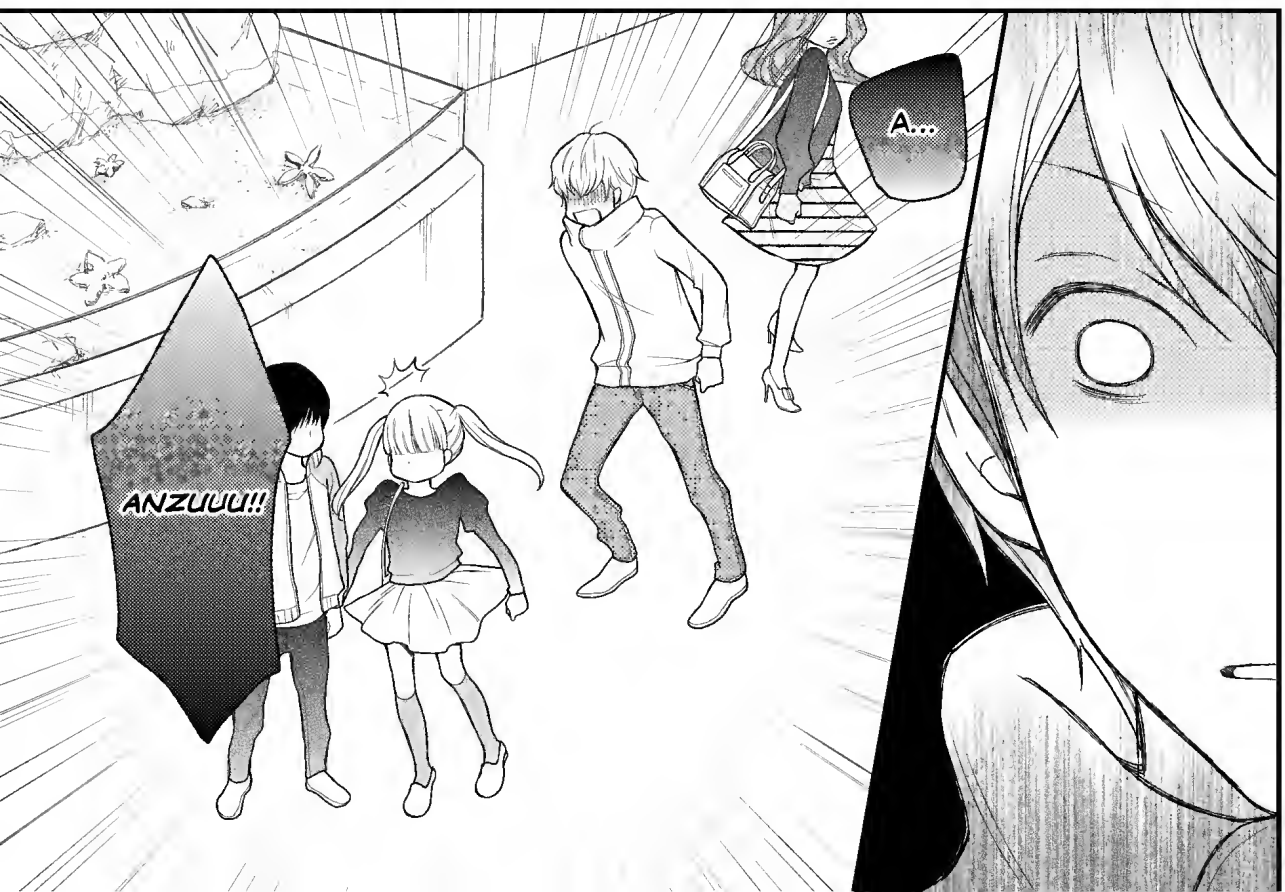
BY THE WAY, ISHINO-SAN, AREN'T YOU HUNGR-
AGH!!
ぐきっ
やっTWIST
I TWIST-ED MY ANKLE !!
Huh ...?
Ow...

Jeez...
IT'S 'CAUSE YOU CAME HERE IN SUCH HIGH HEELS.
And you're way too hyper.


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? CAN YOU WALK?
I'M FINE ...
WHAT'S THE MAT-TER?
NOTH-ING!
WE SHOULD EAT!
C'MON!!


WAIT, ISHINO-SAN.


ANZU-CHAN, WHAT DO YOU WANT TO CHECK OUT?
THE SUNFISH!


A...
ANZUUU!!

HEY, ACTUALLY, THAT'S TSUTSUI'S LITTLE BROTHER, ISN'T IT...?!!
B...
BIG BROTH-ER!
HUH? WHA? WHY ...?
DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WERE GOING TO PLAY WITH KIRARA-CHAN TODAY?
THAT IS NOT KIRARA-CHAN!

HUH ...?
KAORU-KUN.
RUN...

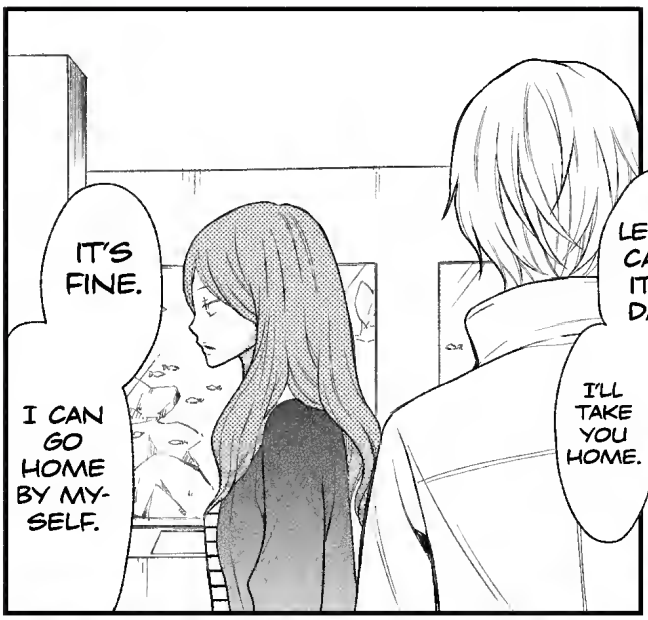
MY NAME IS KAORU TSU-TSUI.
...AM DATING ANZU-CHAN.

I...

GLARE
I HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH MY BROTHER.
YOU'RE DATING TSUTSUI'S LITTLE BROTHER...?!
Y...
YOU'RE DATING ...?
OF COURSE YOU DO! YOU'RE RELATED BY BLOOD! YOU GUYS LOOK EXACTLY ALIKE.
NO WE DON'T! DON'T SAY THAT!
YOU DO!
BIG BROTHER!
I'M SO SORRY FOR LYING.
BUT I...
I LOVE KAORU-KUN...!

N...
NO!
KAORU-KUN BROUGHT ME HERE...!
TH...
THIS IS UN-ACCEP-TABLE! YOU'RE IN ELE-MENTARY SCHOOL!
WE'RE GOING HOME, ANZU!
HUH ?!
HEY.
RELAX FOR A SEC-OND!
ISHINO-SAN, SORRY, BUT I'LL MAKE IT UP TO YOU.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT THE DATE!
JUST CALM DOWN A LITTLE!
YOU'RE BEING SO HARD ON HER!
I KNOW YOU'RE HER BIG BROTHER, BUT THERE'S NO NEED TO PULL HER AWAY LIKE THAT!
YOU STAY OUT OF THIS, ISHINO-SAN.

DON'T STEP INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S BUSINESS.
IT'S REALLY NOT WEL-COME.
HA!
SHAKE
RUN, KAORU-KUN!
OH!
R...
...



Sign: Nanami Bank

WHY ARE YOU FOLLOWING ME?
UH, I HAVE TO TAKE THE TRAIN TO GO HOME, AND THE STATION IS IN THIS DIRECTION ...
I ALSO WANT TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU.
I'M TRULY SORRY ABOUT TODAY, ISHINO-SAN.

WHAT THE...?
OUCH!
SMACK
STOP MAKING FUN OF ME!
I KNOW I'M AN IDIOT, BUT...

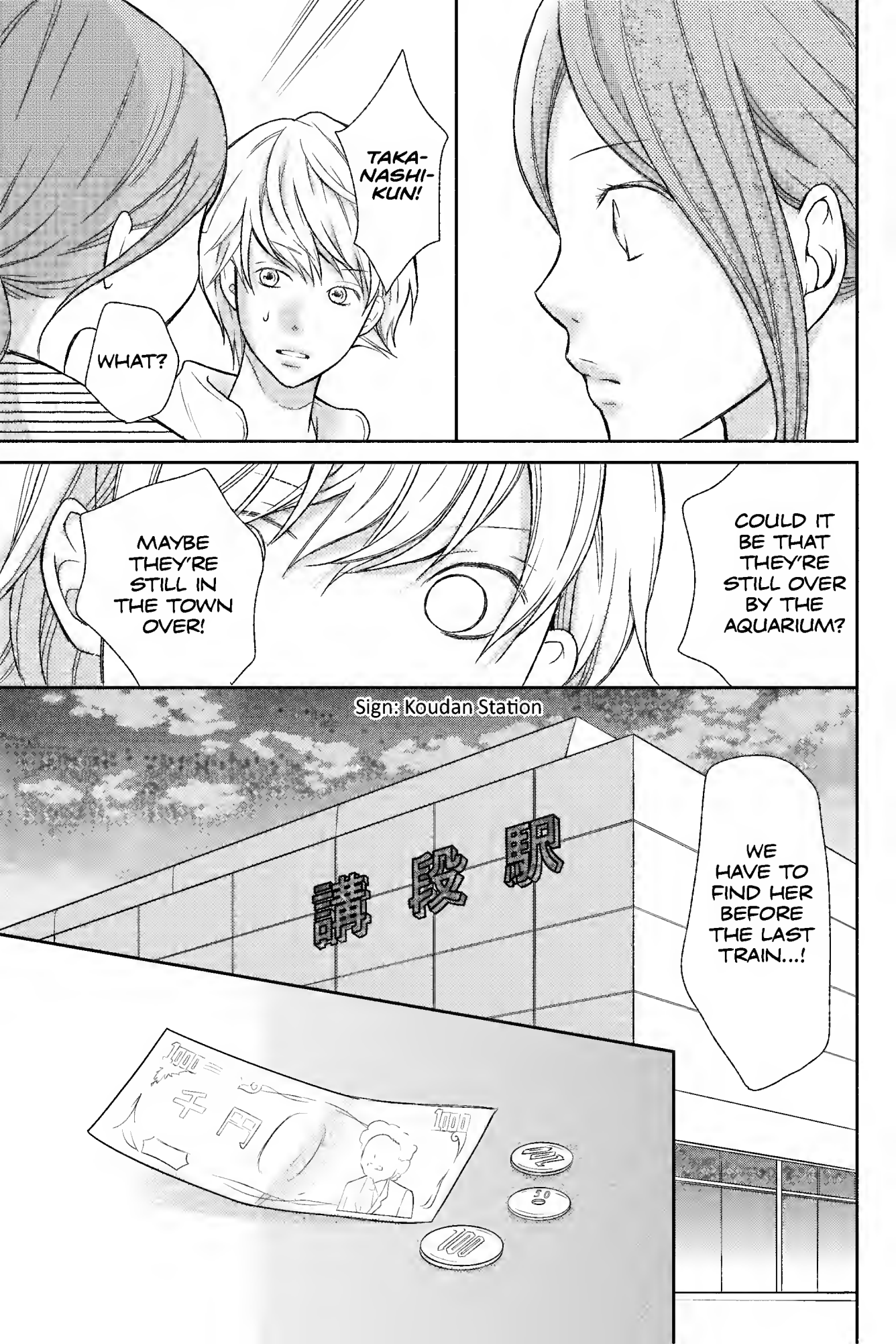
I'M SUCH AN IDIOT!
SO STU-PID!
I WAS SO LOOKING FORWARD TO TODAY. I DID MY HAIR AND EVERY-THING.
DAMN IT...
BUT...

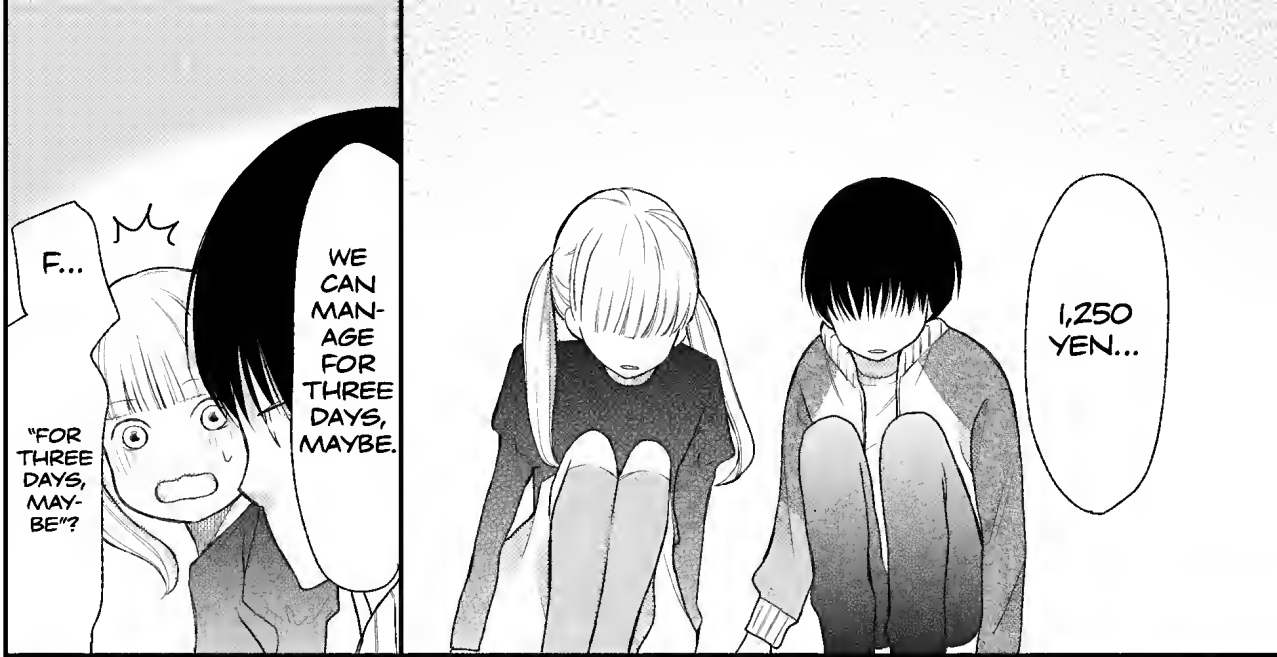
SOR-
RY...
HEY,
UH...
WHAT
HAP-
PENED?
APPAR-
ENTLY
MY
MOM...
...GOT
AN
EMAIL
FROM
ANZU
...
?!
Anzu
To mom
I'm running
away. ☹
...SAYING
SHE'S
RUNNING
AWAY.
HELLO?
WHAT?
ANZU
HASN'T
COME
HOME
YET?

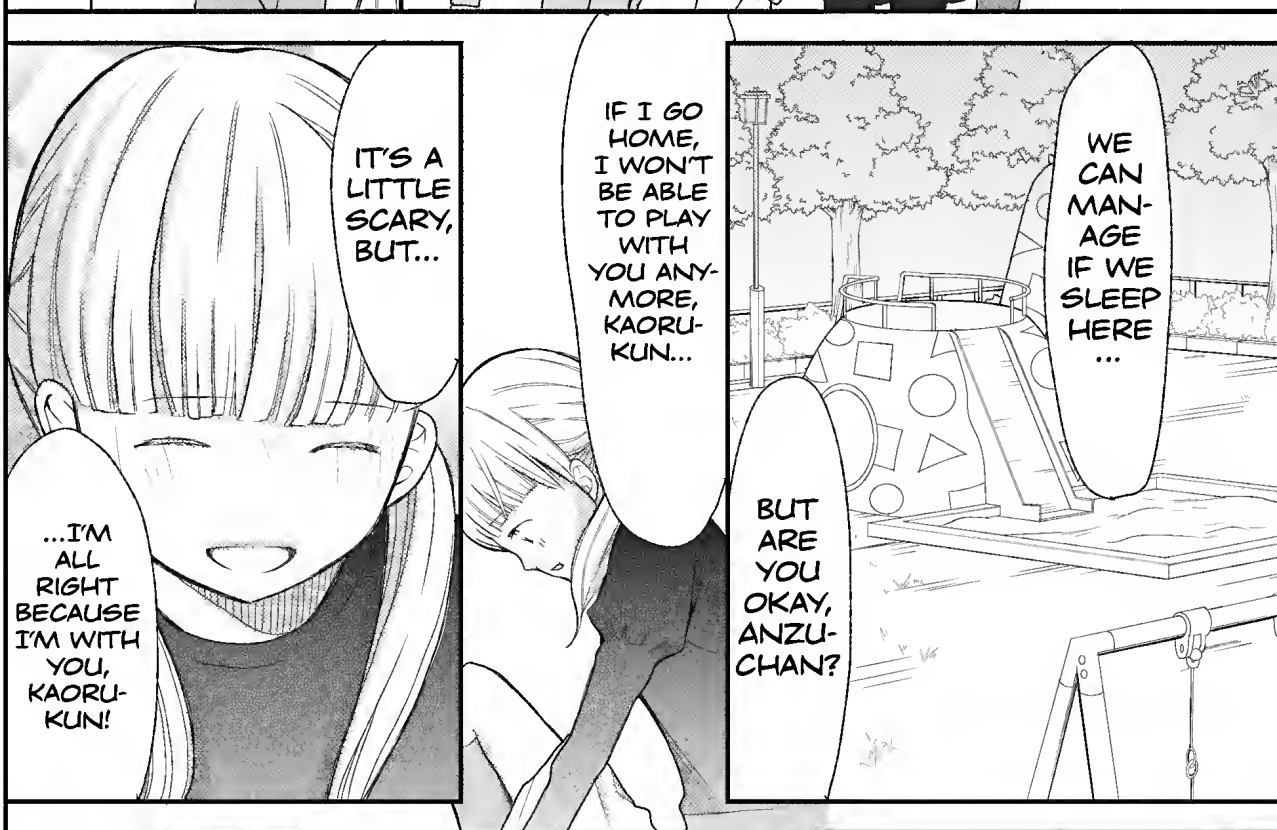
WH...
HUH? IT'S OKAY, ISHINO-SAN. YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
I MEAN ...
FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
I DON'T CARE IF I'M A BUSY-BODY!
NOW'S NOT THE TIME FOR THAT!
SHE'S YOUR LITTLE SIS-TER!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!
WE HAVE TO HURRY UP AND GO LOOK FOR HER!

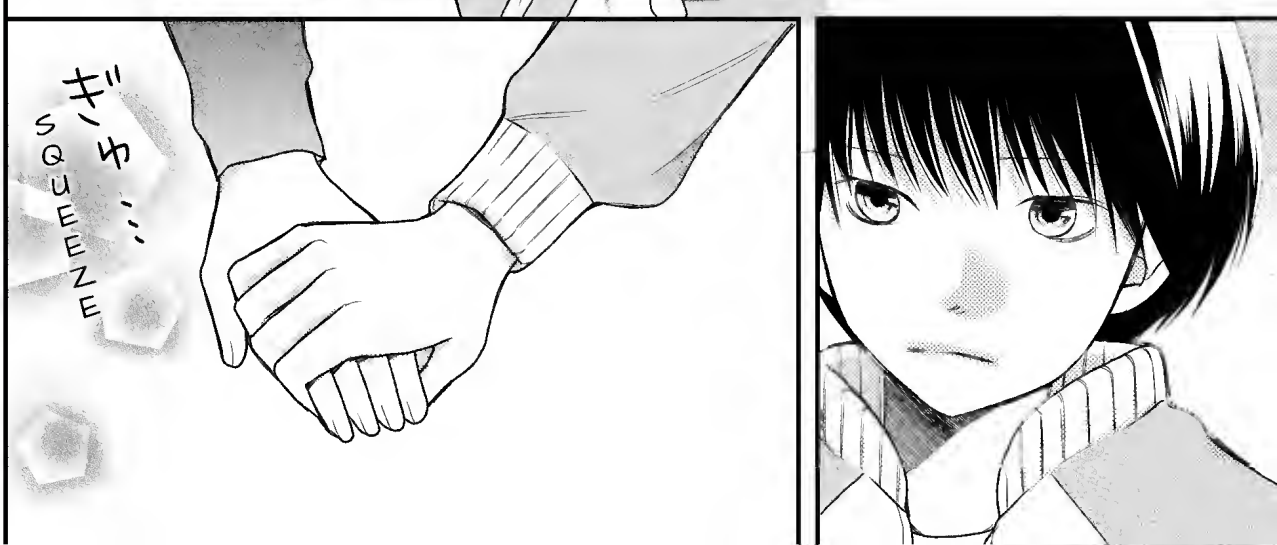
DASH
YOU'RE RIGHT.
SORRY!
I APPRE-CIATE IT, ISHINO-SAN!
WHERE ELSE?
WHERE ELSE COULD SHE HAVE GONE ?!
I DON'T KNOW ...
WE HAVE TO FIND HER BEFORE IT GETS DARK!
WHERE THE HECK IS SHE ...?

YOU WERE RIGHT...
I WAS TOO HARD ON HER.
YEAH...
I HURT ANZU.
YEAH...
I THINK SO...
MY DAD ISN'T HERE ANY-MORE, SO...
...I ENDED UP BE-COMING SO STRICT. ...
...
I SEE...


TAKA-NASHI-KUN!
WHAT?
COULD IT BE THAT THEY'RE STILL OVER BY THE AQUARIUM?
MAYBE THEY'RE STILL IN THE TOWN OVER!
Sign: Koudan Station
講段駅
WE HAVE TO FIND HER BEFORE THE LAST TRAIN...!


1,250 YEN...
WE CAN MANAGE FOR THREE DAYS, MAYBE.
F...
"FOR THREE DAYS, MAYBE"?


WE CAN MANAGE IF WE SLEEP HERE...
BUT ARE YOU OKAY, ANZU-CHAN?
IF I GO HOME, I WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY WITH YOU ANYMORE, KAORU-KUN...
IT'S A LITTLE SCARY, BUT...
...I'M ALL RIGHT BECAUSE I'M WITH YOU, KAORU-KUN!

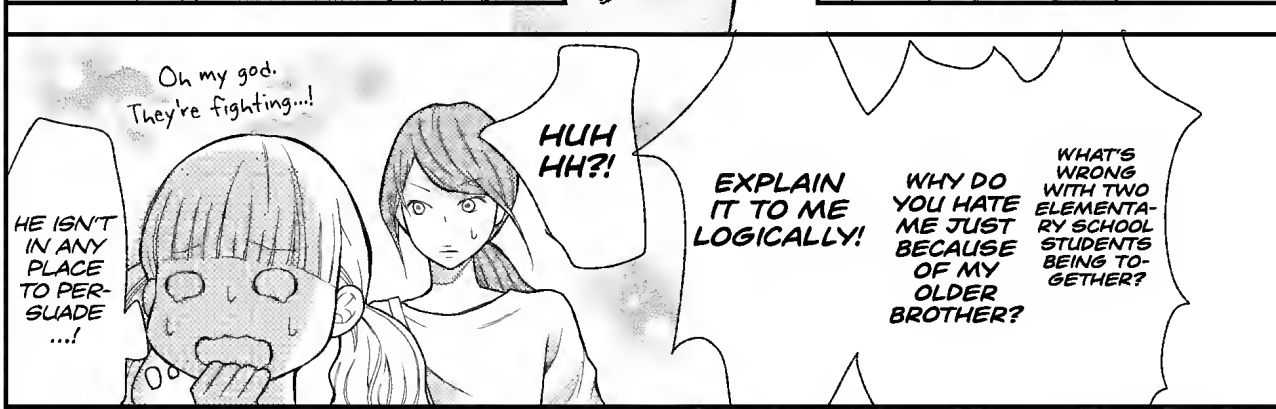

ギュッ...
SQUEEZE

ANZU-CHAN, HAS YOUR MOM OR DAD CALLED YOU?
MY PHONE BAT-TERY IS DEAD ...
MY DAD ISN'T AROUND, BUT MY MOM AND MY BROTHER ARE PROBABLY CALLING NON-STOP RIGHT NOW.
YOUR DAD ISN'T AROUND, ANZU-CHAN?
YEAH. I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT, BUT HE JUST VANI-SHED ONE DAY.
MY BROTHER TOLD ME...
HUH? UH, WELL...
HE LEFT FOR AKITA...TO BECOME AN UDON CHEF..
BUT HE'S PROB-ABLY LYING...
...
THAT'S WHY MY BROTHER IS A LITTLE OVER-PROTECTIVE OF ME.
HE'S USU-ALLY NOT LIKE THAT. HE'S KIND.
I'M SOR-RY!

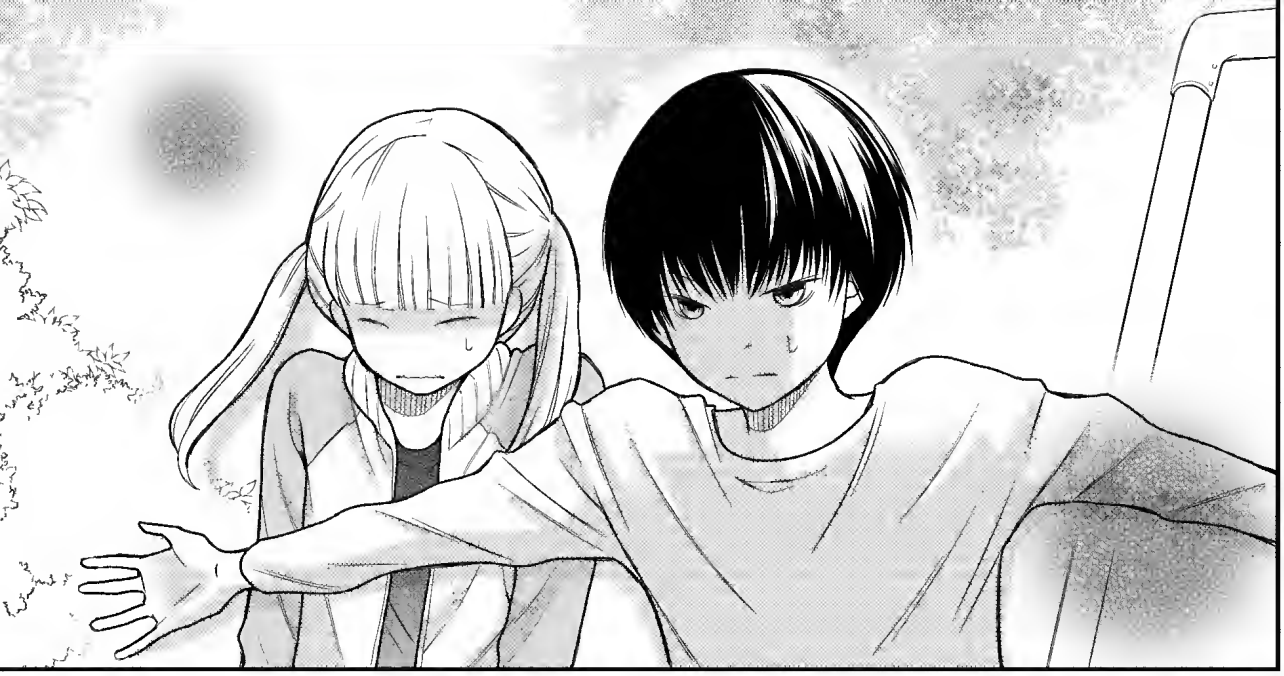
WE SHOULD GO HOME,
ANZU-CHAN.
BUT IF WE GO HOME...
WH...
WHY?
HUH ?!
くしゅん!!
AH-CHOO!

WE SHOULDN'T BE RUNNING OFF LIKE THIS.
WE SHOULDN'T ...
...MAKE YOUR MOTHER AND BROTHER EVEN MORE SAD.
IT'S OKAY.
I'LL GET YOUR MOM AND BROTHER TO TRUST ME.
NO MATTER HOW MANY TIMES I HAVE TO PERSUADE THEM.
K...
KAORU-KUN...
I LOVE YOU...!

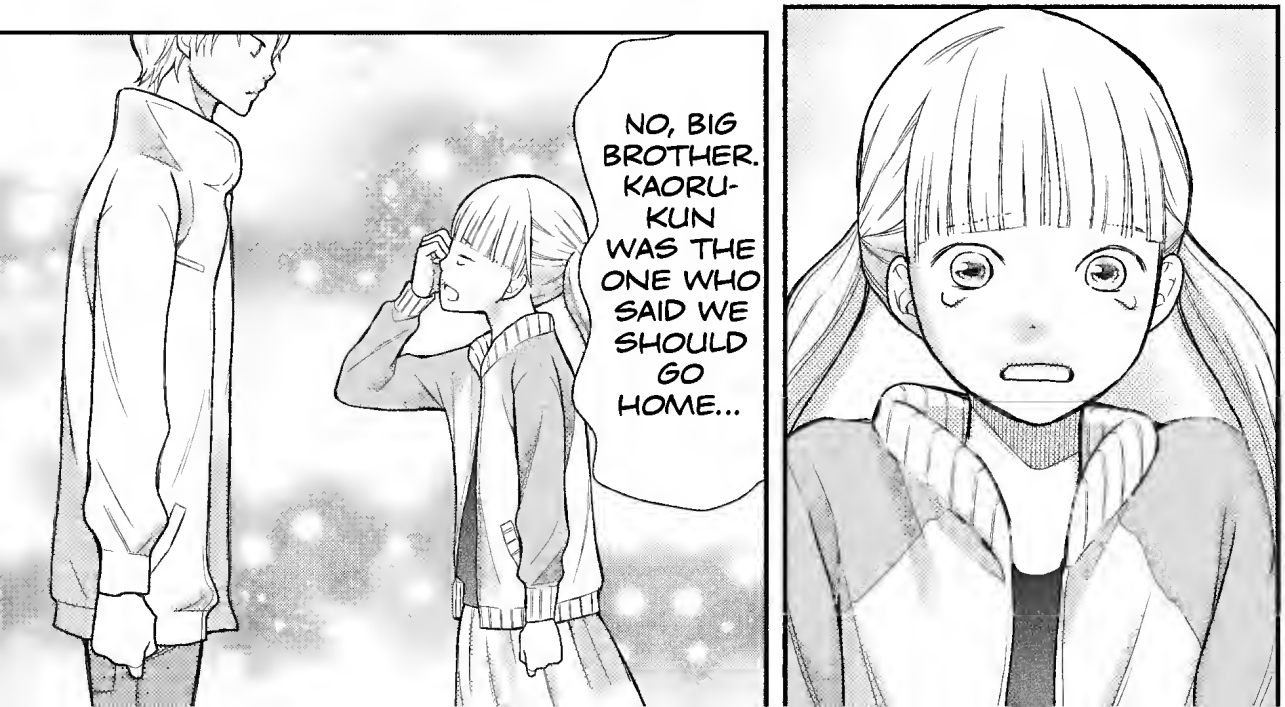
SMACK!
OUCH...
NOT EVEN MY PARENTS HAVE HIT ME BEFORE...!
ARE YOU AN IDIOT?!
WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?! YOU'RE AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENT WHO'S RUNNING AWAY...
THAT'S 'CAUSE WE'RE BEING OPPRESSED BY YOU ADULTS!


Oh my god. They're fighting...!
HUH HH?!
HE ISN'T IN ANY PLACE TO PERSUADE...!
EXPLAIN IT TO ME LOGICALLY!
WHY DO YOU HATE ME JUST BECAUSE OF MY OLDER BROTHER?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH TWO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS BEING TOGETHER?

ANZU!
ピク
JOLT



IT'S MY FAULT THAT SHE'S OUT HERE THIS LATE.


NO, BIG BROTHER. KAORU-KUN WAS THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD GO HOME...

FINE.
I'M ALSO IN THE WRONG.
COME OVER TO OUR PLACE NEXT TIME, AND I'LL LISTEN TO WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY, KAORU.
BIG BROTH-ER...
NOD
コク

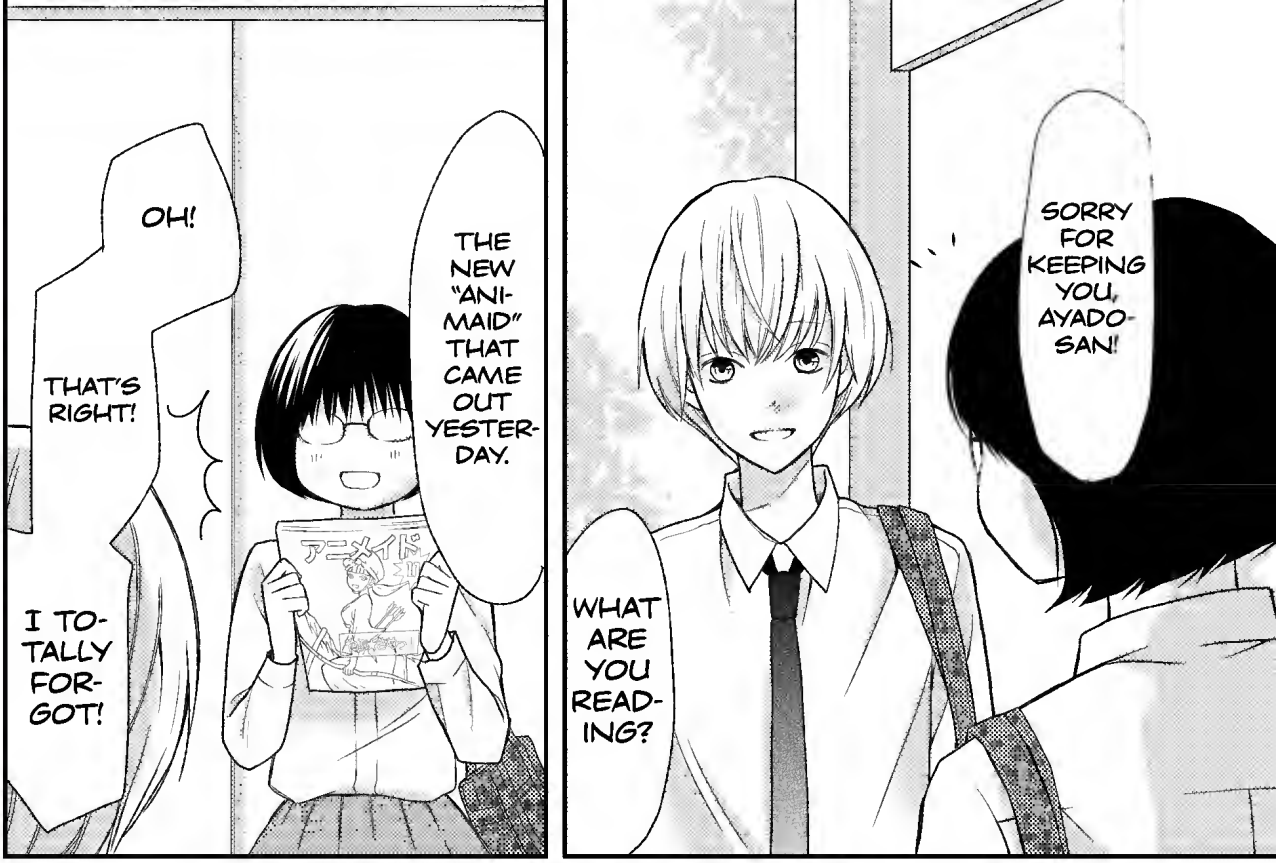
JEEZ...
YOU REALLY ARE SIMILAR TO TSU-TSUI...
SIGH.
WHAT, DO YOU MEAN?
IN ANY CASE, THANK GOD WE FOUND YOU GUYS.

ISHINO-SAN, YOUR LEG...
HM?
OH.
WHOA!
I KNEW YOU WERE IN PAIN.
IT'S NOTH-ING.
THANKS, ISHINO-SAN.
ANYWAY, LET'S ALL GO HOME.

THANKS FOR LENDING ME YOUR SHOES.
Sneakers are a lot more comfortable, that's for sure!
3D WOBBLE
WHOA.
HEY...
YOU RAN SO MUCH IN THOSE HEELS...
SORRY THAT I DIDN'T NOTICE.
IT'S FINE. RUNNING IN HEELS WAS MY DECISION.
NO NEED TO FEEL BAD.

ARE YOU SURE?
YOU CAN DROP ME OFF HERE.
OH.
HON-ESTLY, IT'S EMBAR-RASS-ING BEING SEEN LIKE THIS, SO...
And I'm drip-ping sweat...!
AND I MEAN, MY HAIR AND MAKEUP ARE A MESS, TOO.
COME TO THINK OF IT, I WAS PISSED OFF AT YOU!
FWIP
LET'S GO ON AN-OTHER DATE!
ISHINO-SAN!
I'LL SEE YOU LATER!

THIS TIME, I'M ASKING YOU OUT!
SOUNDS GOOD!


SORRY FOR KEEPING YOU, AYADO-SAN!
WHAT ARE YOU READ-ING?
THE NEW "ANI-MAID" THAT CAME OUT YESTER-DAY.
OH!
THAT'S RIGHT!
I TO-TALLY FOR-GOT!

I'LL HAVE TO GO TO THE BOOK-STORE TODAY...!
DO YOU WANNA COME WITH ME, AYADO-SAN?
NO...
I WAS HOP-ING...
...WE COULD READ ONE COPY TOGETH-ER FROM NOW ON...
アニメイド

UH,
SURE.
OKAY, THEN I'LL GET NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE...
HUH?
ITO AND AYADO-SAN AREN'T HERE.
MAYBE THEY WENT HOME ALREADY.
BUT I WAS THINKING IT'D BE MORE FUN TO HAVE OKONOMIYAKI AS A GROUP...

I GUESS THEY WANT A LOT OF ALONE TIME SINCE THEIR RELATIONSHIP IS JUST BEGINNING, AFTER ALL.
YEAH, THAT MIGHT BE THE CASE.
ITO-KUN WAS ALSO CONSIDERATE OF US AND GAVE US OUR TIME ALONE TOGETHER.
YEAH...
Since he had lunch with the cat...
BUT I MEAN...
IN THE BEGINNING, I WAS NERVOUS WHEN IT WAS JUST THE TWO OF US.
WOULDN'T HE BE MORE COMFORTABLE BEING IN A GROUP?
ITO-KUN'S NOT A CHILD...
YOU'RE GETTING TOO WORRIED ABOUT HIM...
NAW...
I MEAN, I WAS LIKE THAT, TOO, BUT...
ITO'S EVEN MORE UNACCUSTOMED TO GIRLS THAN I AM.

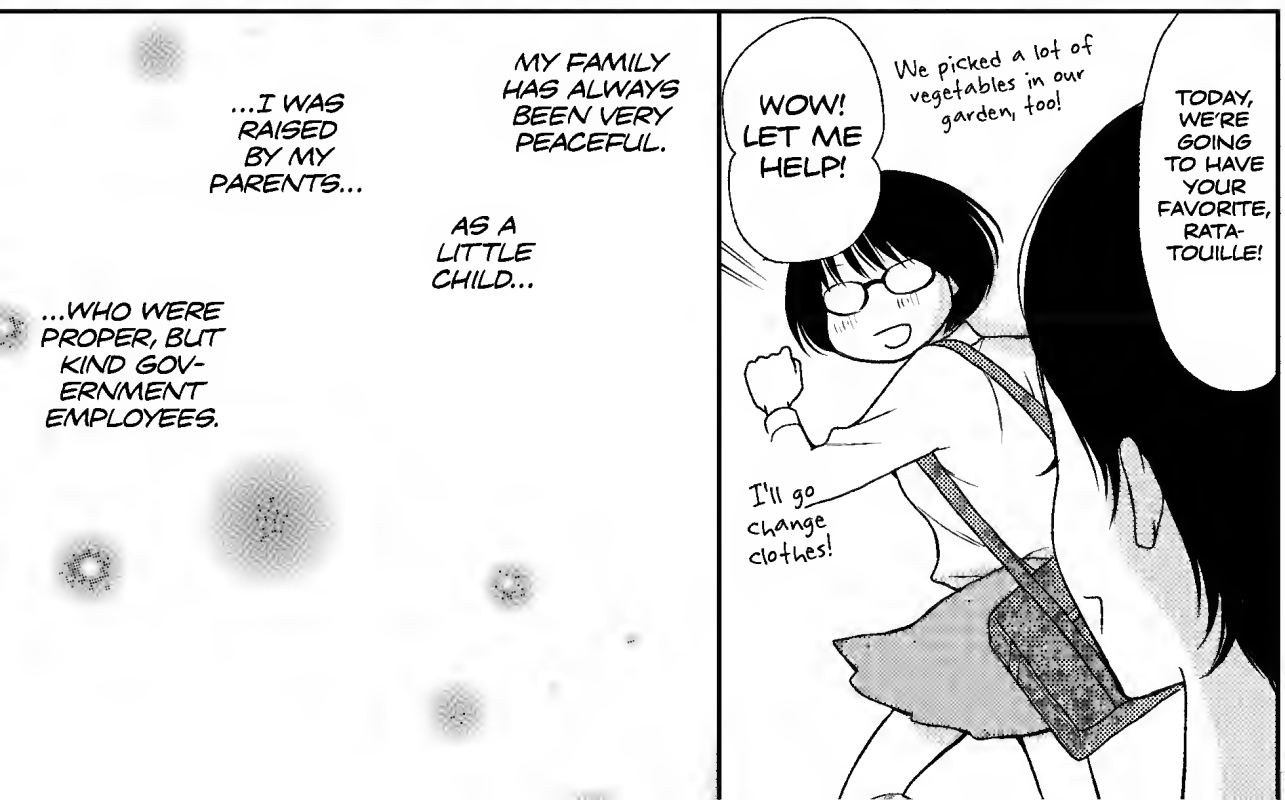
HOPEFULLY THINGS ARE GOING WELL WITH THEM.
YEAH ...

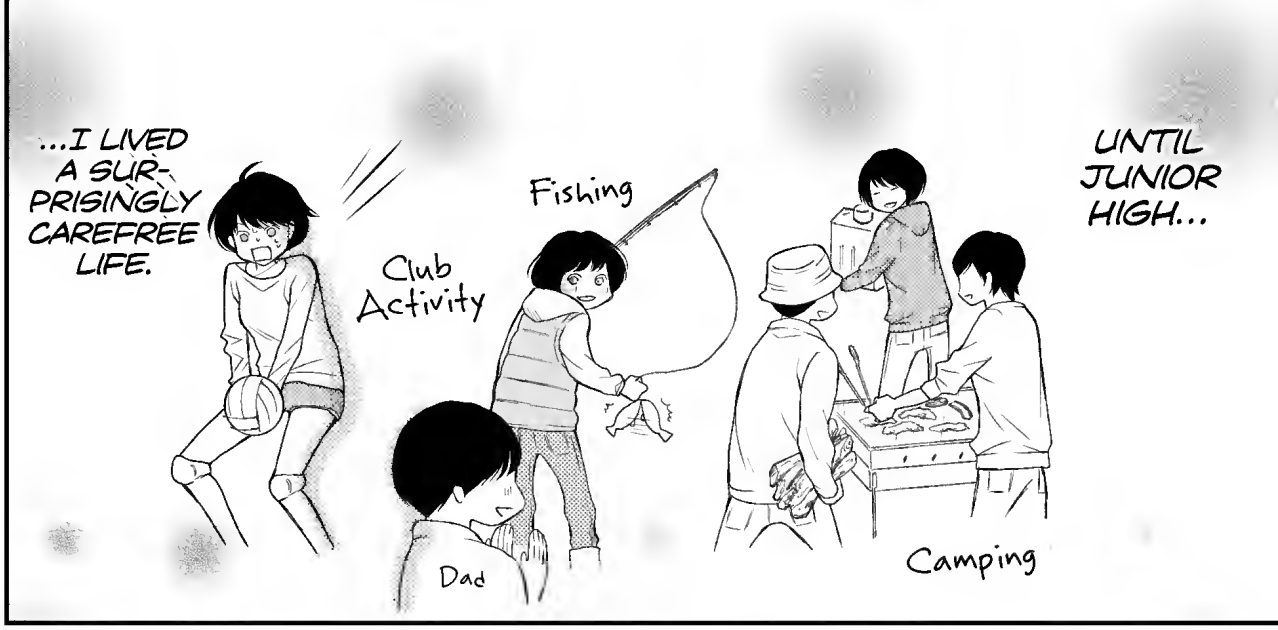
episode★34
The story of Ayado-san's romance troubles

This is all thanks to the support of all my readers. Thank you always!

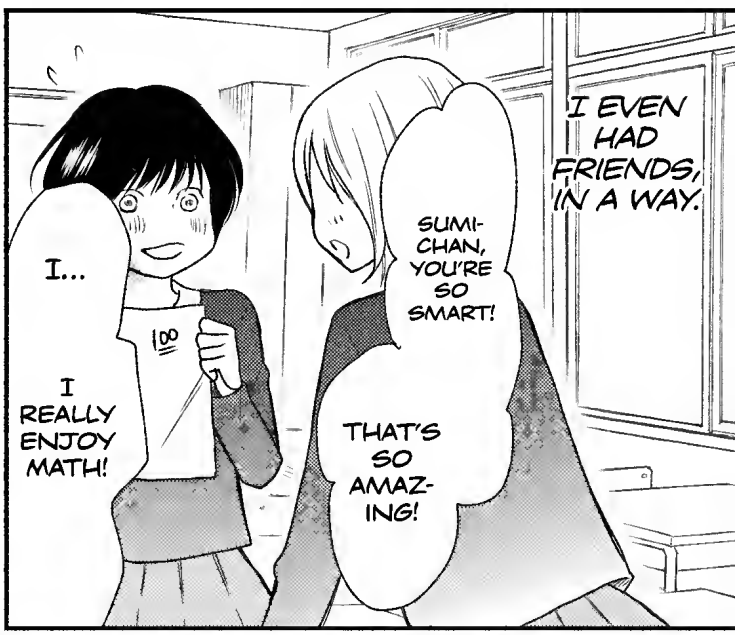
Oh! I feel like I've written almost all the stories I was thinking about writing for volume 10! "Real Girl" has passed its turning point (since I don't think it will continue to 20 volumes). I'll follow all these stories with care all the way through to the end, so I hope you continue to keep up with what happens to these kids together with me.

I'M HOME!
WELCOME HOME, SUMIE!
MY GOODNESS!
SO MANY INDIAN CRESS FLOWERS!
YEAH. A LOT OF THEM BLOOMED IN THE SCHOOL GARDEN.
I'LL BRING A VASE.

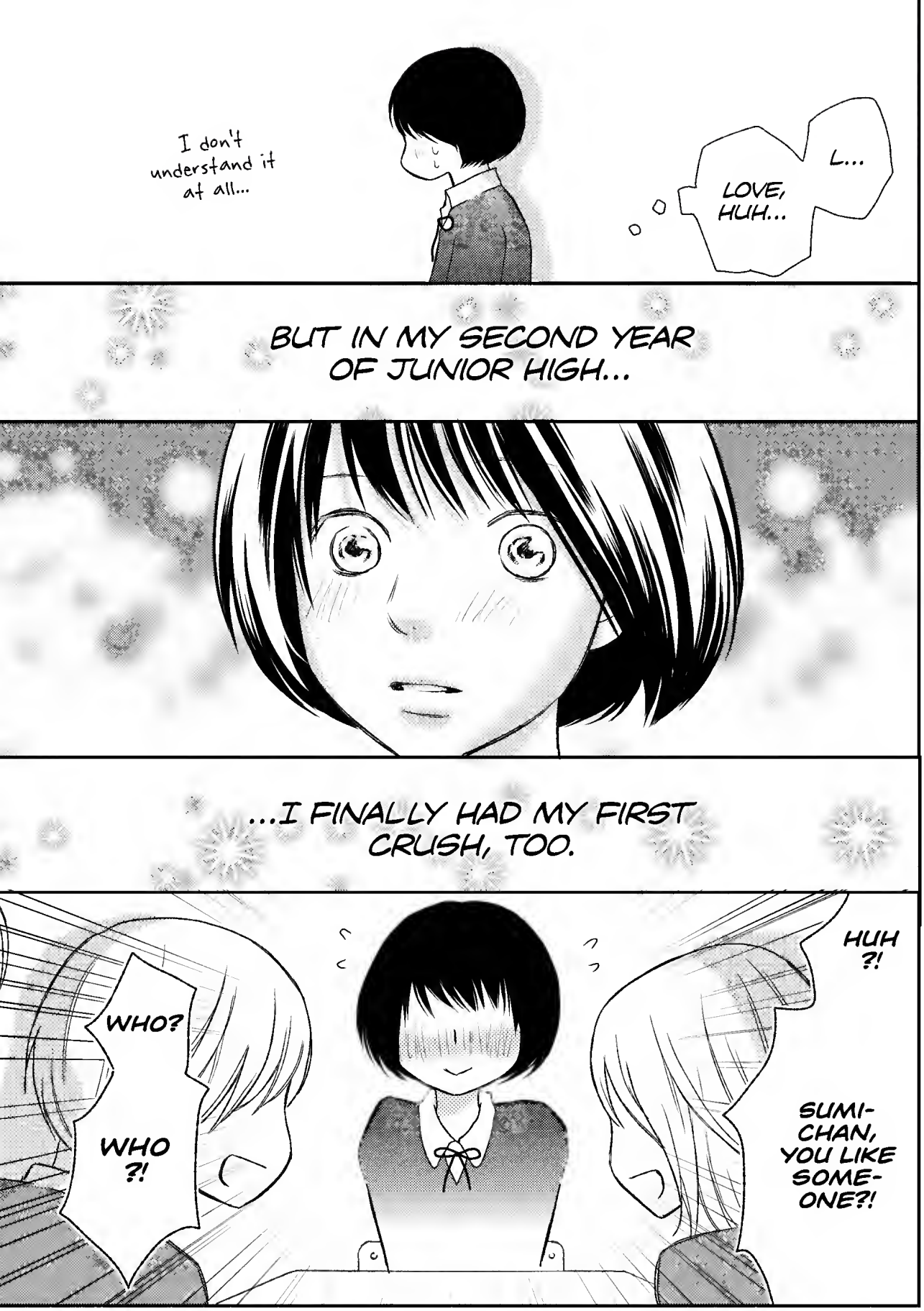

TODAY, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE YOUR FAVORITE, RATATOUILLE!
We picked a lot of vegetables in our garden, too!
WOW! LET ME HELP!
I'll go change clothes!
MY FAMILY HAS ALWAYS BEEN VERY PEACEFUL.
AS A LITTLE CHILD...
...I WAS RAISED BY MY PARENTS...
...WHO WERE PROPER, BUT KIND GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.


...I LIVED A SURPRISINGLY CAREFREE LIFE.
Club Activity
Fishing
Dad
Camping
UNTIL JUNIOR HIGH...

APPARENTLY ISHII-KUN AND NAMI-CHAN FROM CLASS 2 ARE GOING OUT.
HEY, DID YOU HEAR?
BUT...


I EVEN HAD FRIENDS, IN A WAY.
SUMI-CHAN, YOU'RE SO SMART!
I...
I REALLY ENJOY MATH!
THAT'S SO AMAZING!

I WAS AN EXCEPTIONALLY LATE BLOOMER.
...STILL IN JUNIOR HIGH!
BUT WE'RE...
HUH? THEY'RE GOING OUT...?


I don't understand it at all...
L...
LOVE, HUH...
BUT IN MY SECOND YEAR OF JUNIOR HIGH...
...I FINALLY HAD MY FIRST CRUSH, TOO.
HUH ?!
SUMI-CHAN, YOU LIKE SOME-ONE?!
WHO?
WHO ?!

I DIDN'T DO IT FOR YOU...
YOU'RE ...
...AN ENEMY THAT I WILL DEFEAT SOONER OR LATER!
HIS NAME IS DOMAIS-TON...
...
IT WAS A SECONDARY CHARACTER FROM A SHONEN MANGA.
FROM THEN...
...I BECAME TOTALLY OB-SESSED...
...WITH THE 2D WORLD...
AND WHEN I FINALLY REALIZED, IT WAS TOO LATE.

...I HAD CROSSED THE POINT OF NO RETURN.
APPARENTLY HER FIRST LOVE WAS AN ANIME CHARACTER...
SHE'S READING MANGA AGAIN...
IT DIDN'T MATTER IF I WANTED ...
...TO FALL IN LOVE IN THE 3D WORLD...
...OR NOT...
...IT NEVER REALLY BOTHERED ME AT THE START.
With a healthy body comes a healthy mind!
Sumie! Let's go mountain climbing.
FORTUNATELY, THANKS TO THE WAY MY BIG-HEARTED PARENTS RAISED ME...
SMACK

I'VE BEEN CALLING YOUR NAME.
WHY ARE YOU IGNORING ME?
UH...
SORRY.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO. I WAS JUST ABSORBED IN MY BOOK.

DO SOMETHING BESIDES READING MANGA, YOU OTAKU.
フッ
PFFT
クスクス
SNICKER SNICKER
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME...
...THAT I ENCOUNTERED...
...THE CRUELTY OF OTHERS.

AND I BECAME A BIT SCARED OF PEOPLE.
...

THE KIDS I GOT ALONG WITH...
SUMI-CHAN, I DON'T REALLY GET WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT...
OH, SORRY.

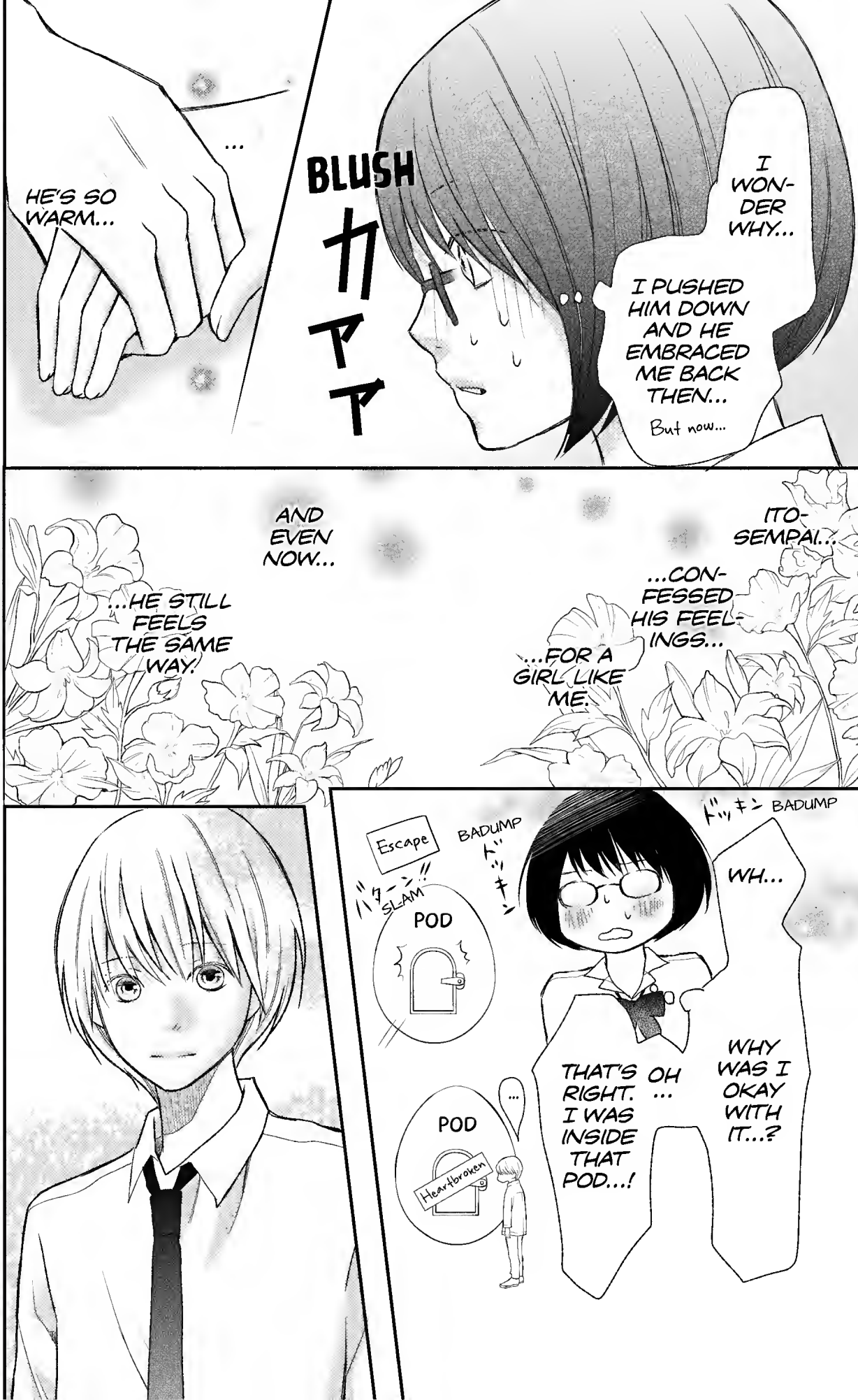
...ALSO FELT MORE DISTANT, TOO.
...
POD
SLAM
ばたーん…
POD
I SUPPOSE THINGS WOULD'VE BEEN DIFFERENT IF I'D RANDOMLY SAID I LIKED SOME GUY, EVEN IF IT WAS A LIE.
POD
BUT BEFORE I KNEW IT, THE PERSON I WAS JUST MADE OTHER PEOPLE UNCOMFORT-ABLE.
コン
KNOCK
コン
KNOCK

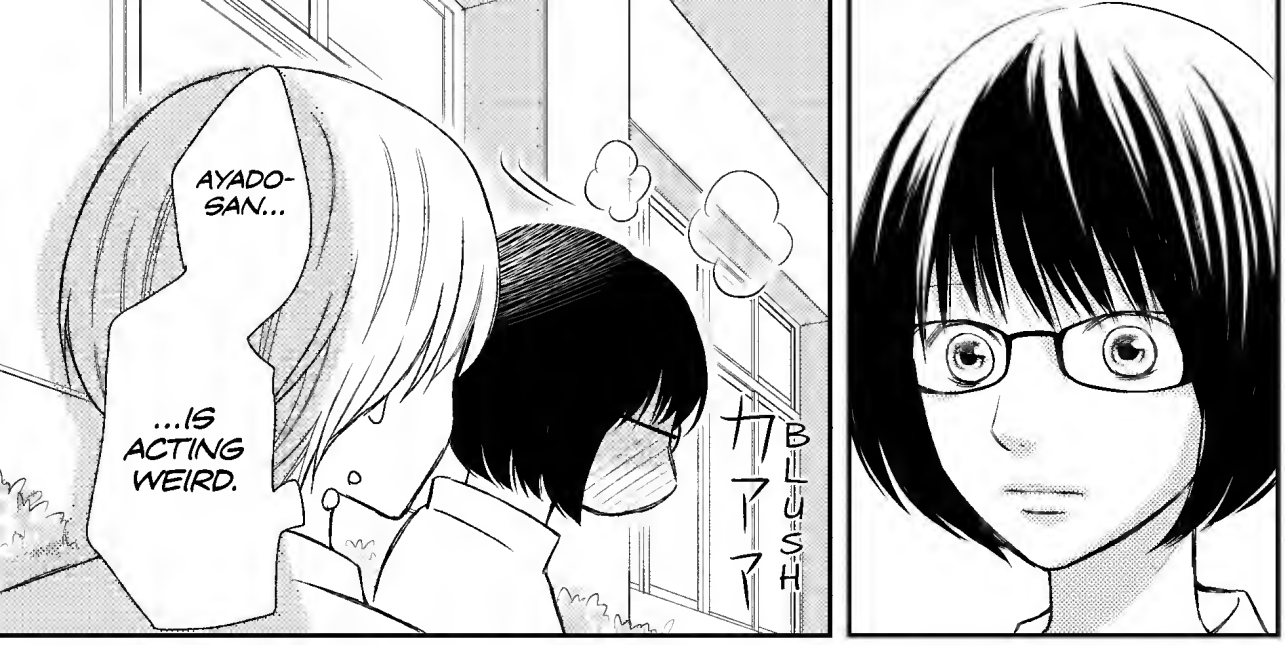
AYADO-SAN.
OH, THERE YOU ARE, AYADO-SAN!
COME TO THE COURT-YARD!
UH...
HERE ...

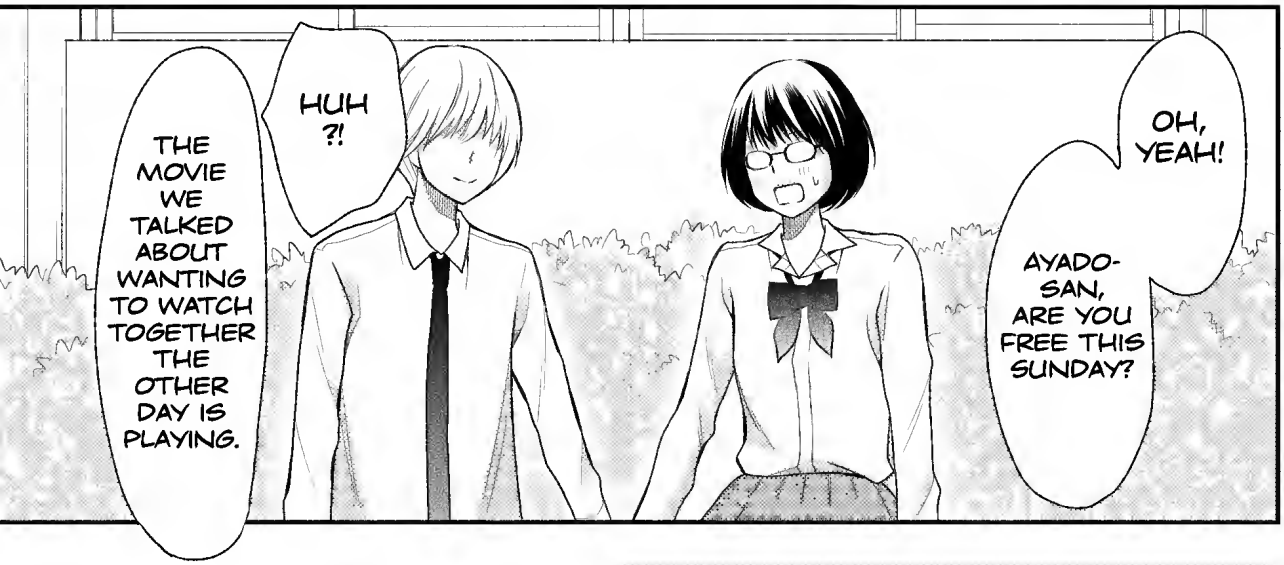
...
WHEN YOU FEEL LIKE IT...
...OR WHEN YOU NEED AN EAR...
...YOU CAN CALL ON US, AND WE'LL COME HANG OUT.
AYADO-SAN.

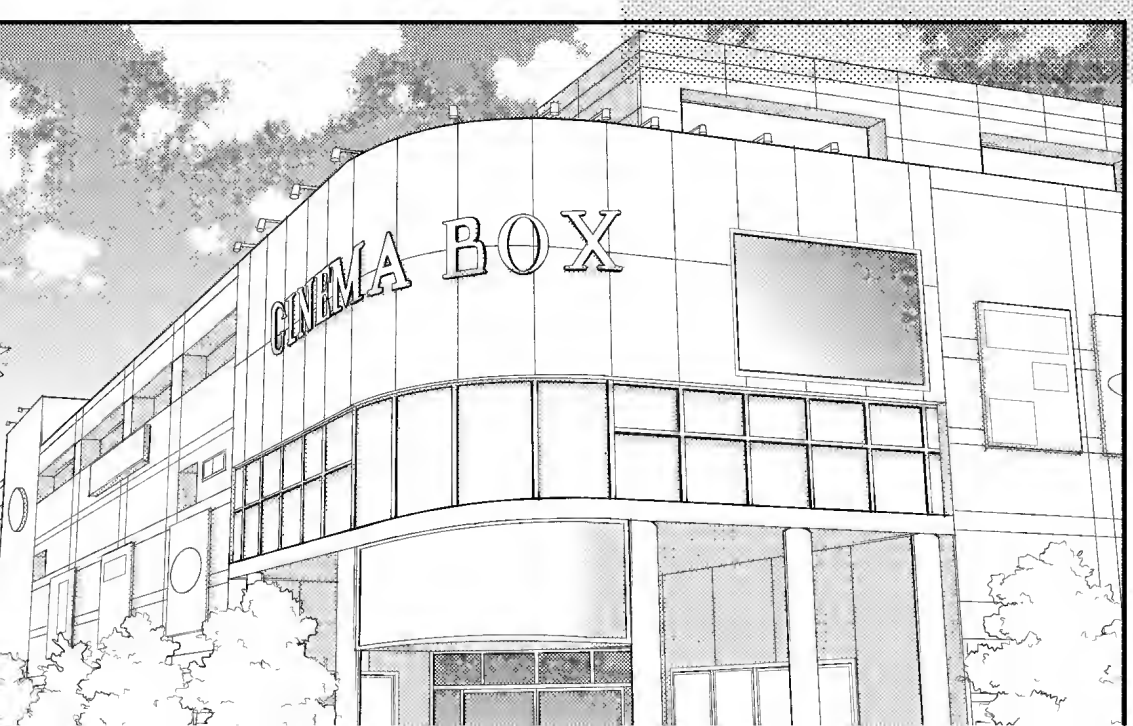
THAT WAS...
...THE FIRST TIME I LIKED A "PERSON."
IT WAS THE FIRST TIME...
...THAT I FELL FOR A REAL BOY.
AND NOW...

I HAVE A BOY-FRIEND...
...FOR THE FIRST TIME.
-IS WHAT I THINK...
ARE YOU LISTEN-ING, AYADO-SAN?
WHA?
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
HUH?
WERE YOU DAY-DREAMING AGAIN?
Heh heh.
?
MY BOY-FRIEND ...!!
,,,,, STARE...
TH...
IS...
THIS GUY...
...MY BOY-FRIEND ...


BLUSH
カアア
I WONDER WHY...
I PUSHED HIM DOWN AND HE EMBRACED ME BACK THEN...
But now...
...
HE'S SO WARM...
ITO-SEMPAI...
...CONFESSED HIS FEELINGS...
...FOR A GIRL LIKE ME.
AND EVEN NOW...
...HE STILL FEELS THE SAME WAY.
BADUMP ドッキン
WH...
WHY WAS I OKAY WITH IT...?
OH ...
THAT'S RIGHT. I WAS INSIDE THAT POD...!
Escape
バターン!! SLAM
POD
Heartbroken

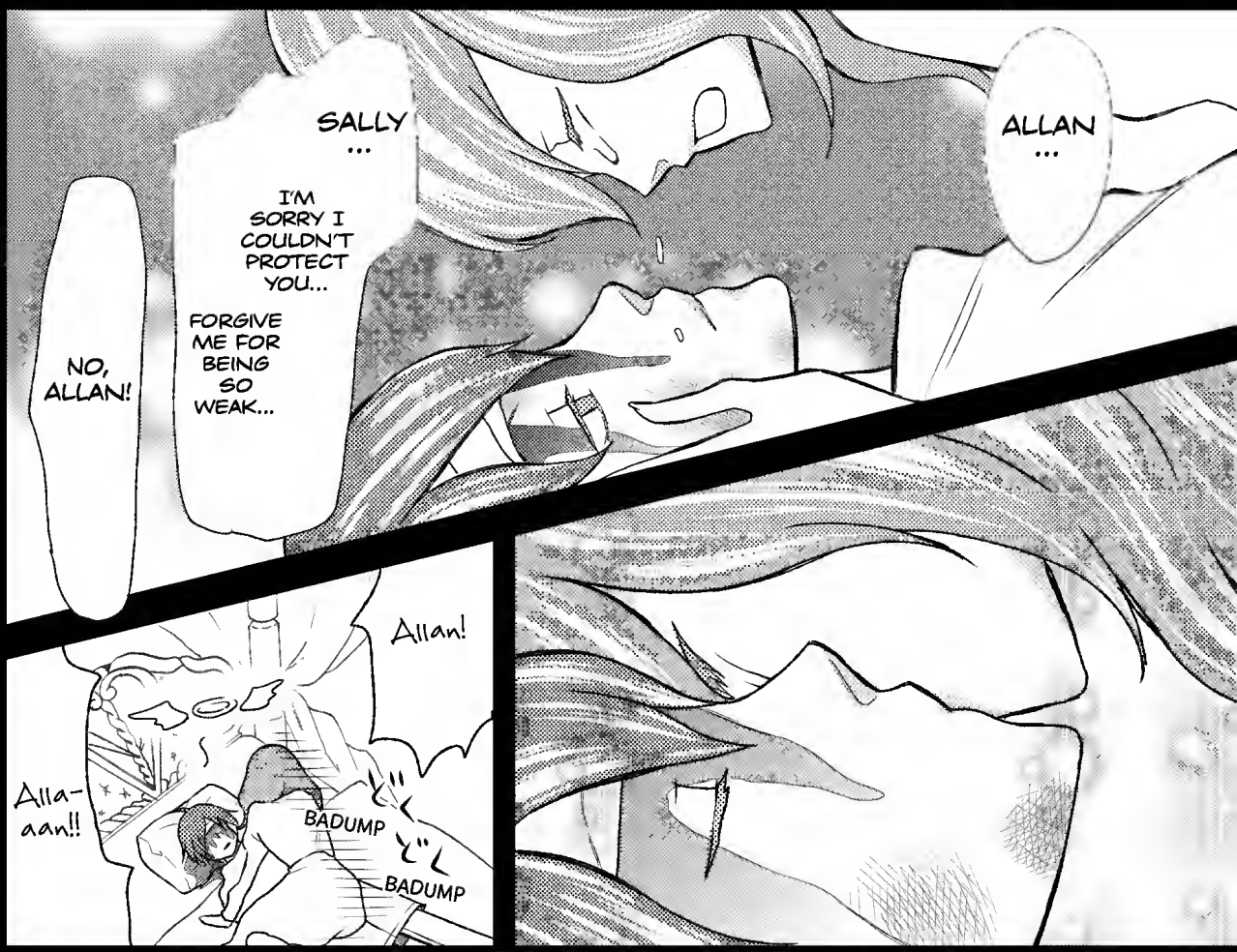

AYADO-SAN...
...IS ACTING WEIRD.
BLUSH
カアア

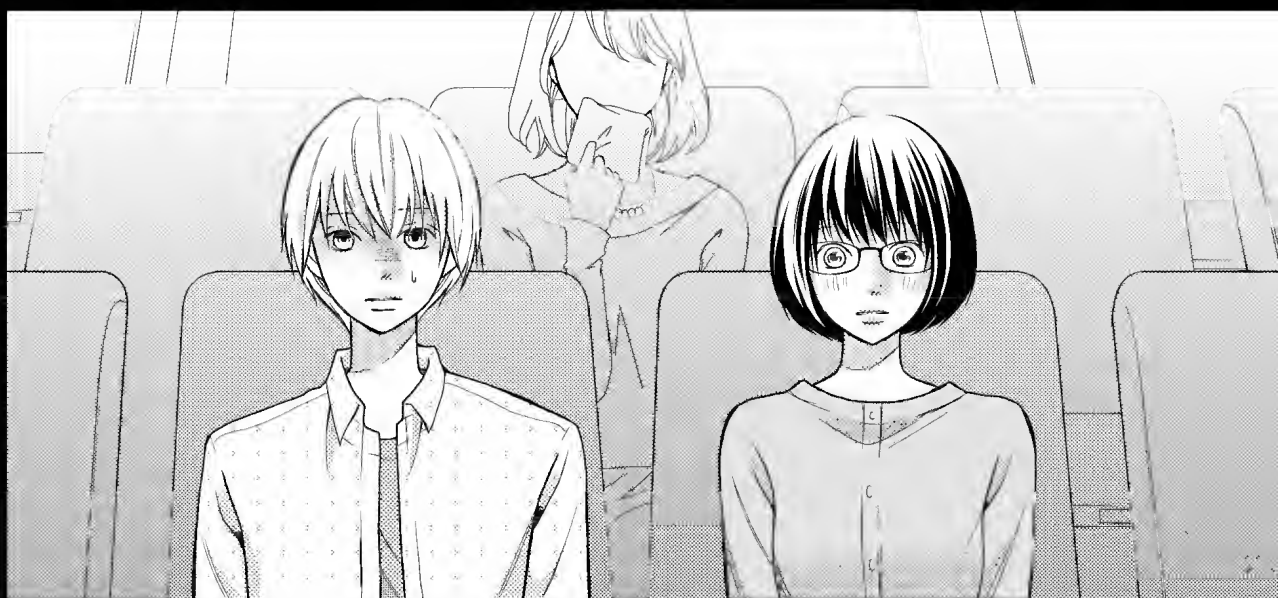

THE MOVIE WE TALKED ABOUT WANTING TO WATCH TOGETHER THE OTHER DAY IS PLAYING.
HUH ?!
AYADO-SAN, ARE YOU FREE THIS SUNDAY?
OH, YEAH!


CINEMA BOX

THANKS FOR WAITING, AYADO-SAN!
YOU CAME EARLY, AFTER ALL!
I LEFT THE HOUSE EARLY, BUT YOU BEAT ME.
OKAY.
LET'S GO.

RUSTLE...
WH...
BY BECOMING AN ITEM WITH ITO-SEMPAI...
I'LL EXPERIENCE THINGS THAT I'VE SEEN IN MANGA...
...I'LL START HOLDING HANDS WITH HIM ON DATES LIKE THIS...
...THINGS THAT I HOPED TO EXPERIENCE...
...WITH ITO-SEMPAI.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
FSSSHHH
M...
MY IMAGINATION'S RUNNING WILD...!
AYADO-SAN...?

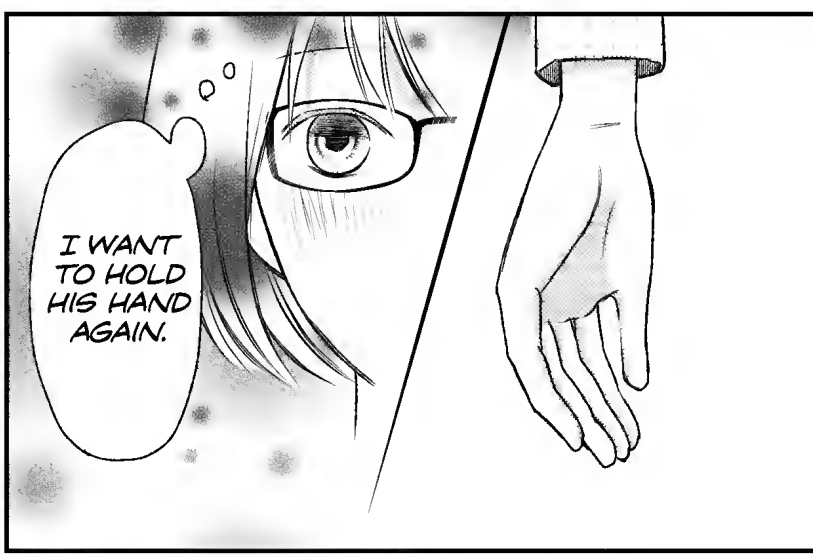

SALLY
...
I'M SORRY I COULDN'T PROTECT YOU...
FORGIVE ME FOR BEING SO WEAK...
NO, ALLAN!
ALLAN
...
Allan!
Alla-aan!!
BADUMP
BADUMP



UH,
UM,
S...SO WHAT DID YOU LIKE ABOUT THE MOVIE, AYADO-SAN...?
I CAN'T TELL HIM...
THERE'S NO WAY...
...I'M GONNA TELL HIM THAT I KEPT IMAGINING THINGS...
...THAT WERE MORE LIKE A HORMONAL TEENAGE BOY MIGHT...!!
WELL...
OHH... GIVEN THAT I HAVE A LOT OF MANGA KNOWLEDGE...
HE'S GOING TO HATE ME IF HE FINDS OUT WHAT GOES ON INSIDE MY HEAD...!
UH, AYADO-SAN...?
UM, UH!
I LIKED EVERYTHING ABOUT IT!!

USU-
ALLY,
SHE'D
SAY...
The story line...! The back-ground...! The main charac-ter's...!
OH...
IT'S ALREADY EVENING. TIME FLIES.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?

COME TO THINK OF IT, THAT MOVIE REMIND-ED ME...

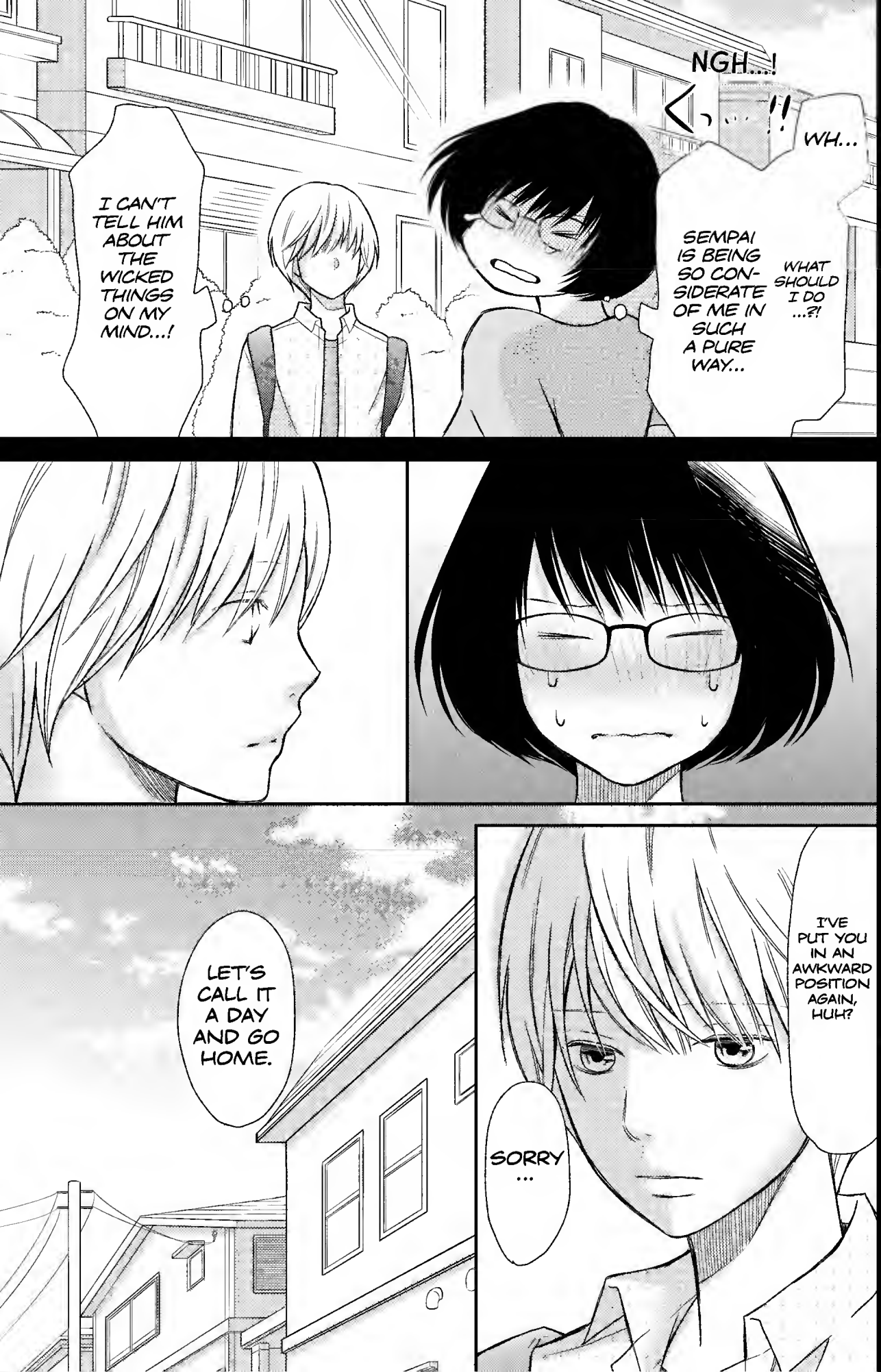

I WANT TO HOLD HIS HAND AGAIN.

I SURE WAS PATHETIC THE OTHER DAY, HUH?
WHEN ISHINO-SAN AND TAKA-NASHI-KUN...
...HAD TO JUMP IN AND SAVE ME.
NOT AT ALL...
IF ANYTHING, I'M SORRY THAT YOU GOT MADE FUN OF BECAUSE OF ME.
I'M...
...GONNA BECOME STRON-GER!
HUH?
MAYBE I SHOULD START GOING TO THE GYM...
Or maybe martial arts is better...
IT'S OKAY. JUST BE YOUR-SELF, SEMPAI.
NO...
I HATE MY-SELF.
I'm just so weak.

I...
AS A PERSON...
...LIKE YOU, SEMPAI.
AS A BOY...
AH!
UH...
I...
I'M SO SOR-RY!
OH NO! I DIDN'T EXPECT THAT AND PULLED MY HAND AWAY BY MISTAKE...!
FWIP!!

I'M SO SENSI-TIVE...!
AHH! I'M SUCH AN IDIOT...!!
BLUSH
AYADO-SAN...
ARE YOU...
...WORRIED ABOUT DATING ME, BY ANY CHANCE?

HUH ...?
WHY ...?
I CAN JUST TELL BY LOOK-ING AT YOU.
YOU'VE BEEN REALLY STRESSED, AYADO-SAN.
HUH ...?
IF YOU FEEL LIKE YOU HAVE TO FALL FOR ME... JUST 'CAUSE WE'RE DATING...
I JUST WANT TO MAKE YOU HAPPY, AYADO-SAN.
IF THIS BOTHERS YOU THAT MUCH...
...THEN THAT'S THE OPPOSITE OF HAPPY.
...THEN DON'T WORRY.
N... NO...


NGH...!
WH...
WHAT SHOULD I DO ...?!
SEMPAI IS BEING SO CONSIDERATE OF ME IN SUCH A PURE WAY...
I CAN'T TELL HIM ABOUT THE WICKED THINGS ON MY MIND...!
I'VE PUT YOU IN AN AWKWARD POSITION AGAIN, HUH?
SORRY ...
LET'S CALL IT A DAY AND GO HOME.

WH...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THINGS WOULD DEVELOP LIKE THIS...?!
COME TO THINK OF IT...
...I HAVEN'T ONCE TOLD SEMPAI...
...THAT I HAVE FEELINGS FOR HIM...!

SEMPAI!
AYADO-SAN.
YOU CAN THINK IT OVER ONE MORE TIME...
...AND GIVE ME AN ANSWER THEN.

THAT FACE.
GOOD-BYE, AYADO-SAN.
MAYBE...
...IT'S THE FACE THAT SEMPAI MAKES...
...WHEN HE'S SUPPRESSING HIS EMOTIONS.
S...
SEM-PAI...
TH...
THAT'S NOT IT!!
SOB

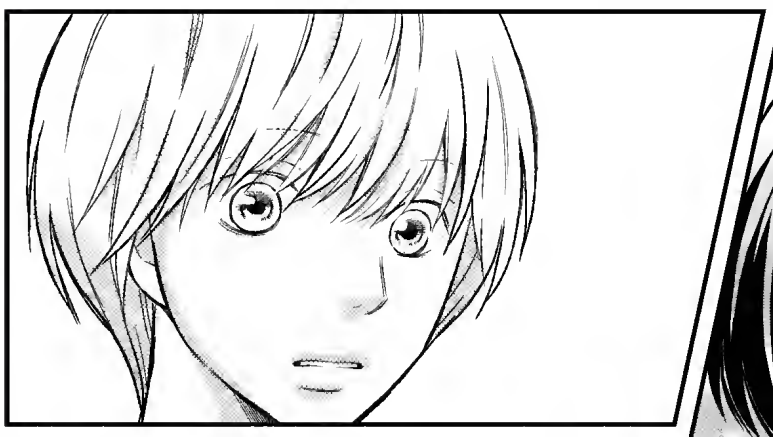
C-
CALM DOWN, AYADO-SAN.
I...
UH...
I...
I'M SORRY!!
I LOVE YOU, SEMPAI!
YOU SUPPORT ME...
...WHILE HIDING YOUR OWN PAIN.
WITHOUT YOU...
...I WOULDN'T BE WHO I AM NOW.

I'M SORRY I ALWAYS END UP PUTTING THAT PAINED EXPRESSION ON YOUR FACE.
I...
...DON'T WANT YOU TO SUPPRESS YOUR EMOTIONS ANYMORE.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN BESIDE ME...
...THAT I CAN KEEP MY HEAD UP.
I'M GLAD ...

THANKS, AYADO-SAN.
I FEEL REAS-SURED.
UH,
SO THEN ...
WHAT'S BEEN WEIGHING ON YOUR MIND...?
I...
IT'S NOTHING. DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT!
カバッ
GRAB
YOU ...
...JUST TOLD ME NOT TO SUPPRESS MY EMOTIONS DIDN'T YOU...?

I DON'T WANT YOU...
...TO HOLD ANY-THING IN, EITHER, AYADO-SAN.
TELL ME WHAT-EVER'S ON YOUR MIND.
D...
DO YOU MEAN THAT ...?
IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO NOT HOLD ANY-THING IN...?
YOU WON'T HATE ME FOR IT...?
NO.
I'M A LITTLE SCARED.
What is she talking about?

PANT



I...
I'M SORRY...
BLUUUUSH
...I HAD NO IDEA.

TH...
THAT'S WHAT'S BEEN ON MY MIND...
FOR THE WHOLE DAY...
JUST THAT...
I'M SOR-RY...

IS IT OKAY ...
...THAT I'M THIS WAY ...?
H...
HOLD ON. IT ALL HAP-PENED SO FAST ...
...
CAN I GIVE IT A TRY?

UNTIL NOW...
...I NEVER KNEW WHAT THAT FELT LIKE.
A PERSON'S BREATH...
A PERSON'S WARMTH...
POD
IT'S SUCH A JOYFUL SENSATION.

SO THIS WAS ACTUAL-LY THE SECOND TIME.
SEM-PAI...

HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH.
WOULD IT...
BE OKAY FOR ME TO EXPRESS MY DESIRES FROM NOW ON?
SLOW-LY...
SLOWLY, OKAY...?
A COUPLE WHOSE ROLES ARE RE-VERSED SOME-HOW!

episode★35

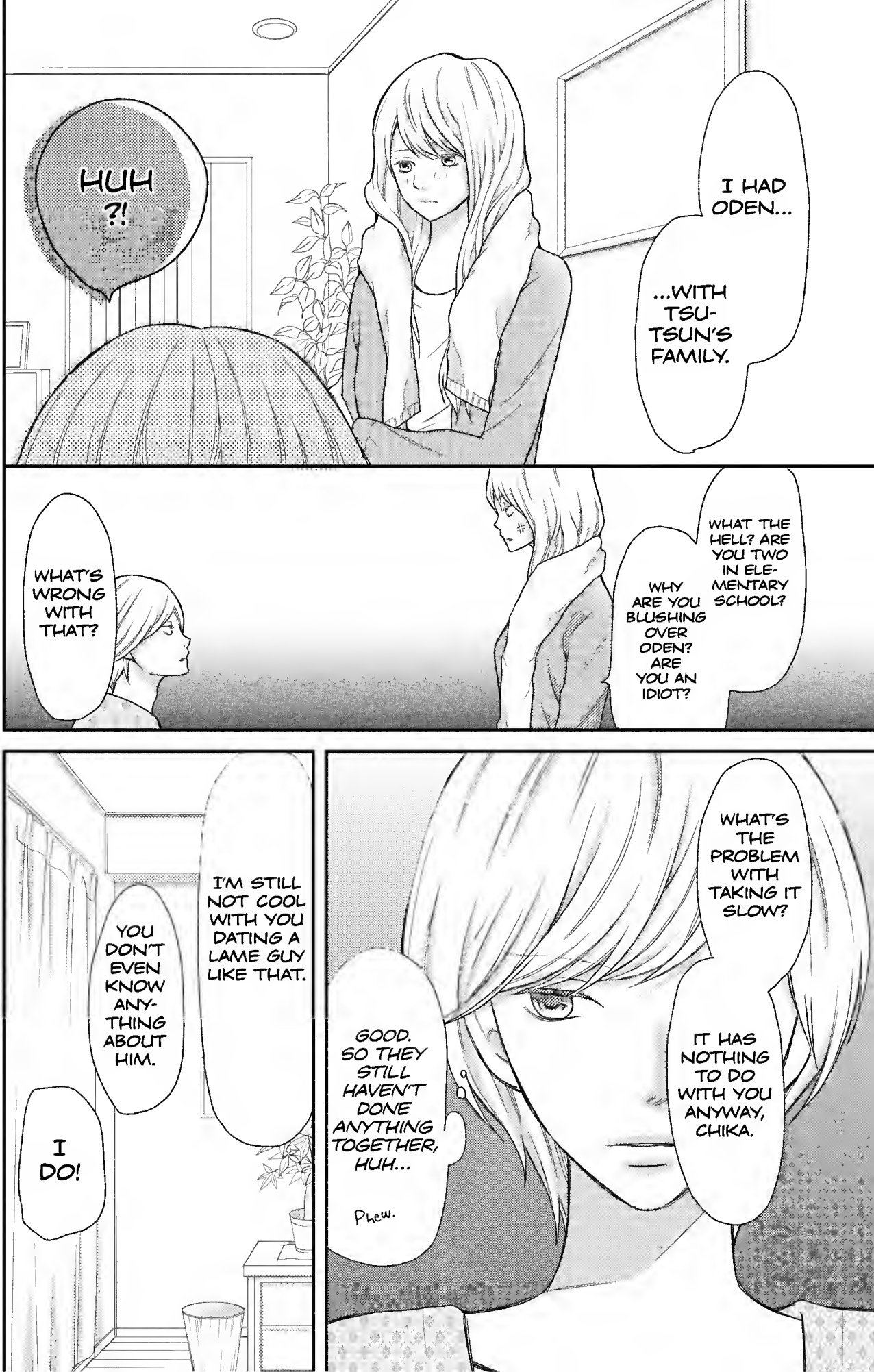
The story of a worry that my friend couldn't share with me

I'm really thankful to all my assistants for always pleasantly tolerating my nonsensical demands for a "small shelter, like the one in Ayado-san's heart," or for something "jagged and cloudy," or for just "that thing".

And when I asked them to create an **Oshamanbe meter**, I thought they'd ask me what the heck I was talking about, but they responded with a refreshing "Roger," and I realized how truly reliable they were. I draw all the backgrounds to the illustrations for the volumes, but as tough as it is, it touches the very core of my heart.

This time, I even struggled with drawing a milk box. Background art truly is tough!

IT'S GOING WELL, AS USUAL.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
AS USUAL?
JUST THE OTHER DAY...
AS IN YOUR USUAL SCHOOL OR PARK DATES?
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
THE OTHER DAY...?
カッ
FLASH


HUH ?!
I HAD ODEN...
...WITH TSU-TSUN'S FAMILY.
WHAT THE HELL? ARE YOU TWO IN ELE-MENTARY SCHOOL?
WHY ARE YOU BLUSHING OVER ODEN? ARE YOU AN IDIOT?
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT?
WHAT'S THE PROBLEM WITH TAKING IT SLOW?
IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU ANYWAY, CHIKA.
GOOD. SO THEY STILL HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TOGETHER, HUH...
Phew.
I'M STILL NOT COOL WITH YOU DATING A LAME GUY LIKE THAT.
YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT HIM.
I DO!

UNTIL NOW, YOU'VE NEVER WORN YOUR JERSEY AT HOME.
THAT'S 'CAUSE TH... ...
Wear your jersey! Wear it!
HUH?
YOU'VE BECOME PRETTY LAME YOURSELF THESE DAYS!
A GUY'S SUPPOSED TO MAKE A GIRL WANT TO BE PRETTY.
YOU'RE DEFINITELY BECOMING MORE LIKE HIM, THAT'S FOR SURE.
WHY DO YOU HAVE TO EVEN BE TOLD THAT ...?
Your jersey...
I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S A PASSIVE HERBIVORE TYPE, BUT...
...NO GUY WOULD EVER BE SATISFIED WITH A RELATIONSHIP LIKE THAT.

THAT WAS A WET TOWEL ...!
SMACK!
OW!

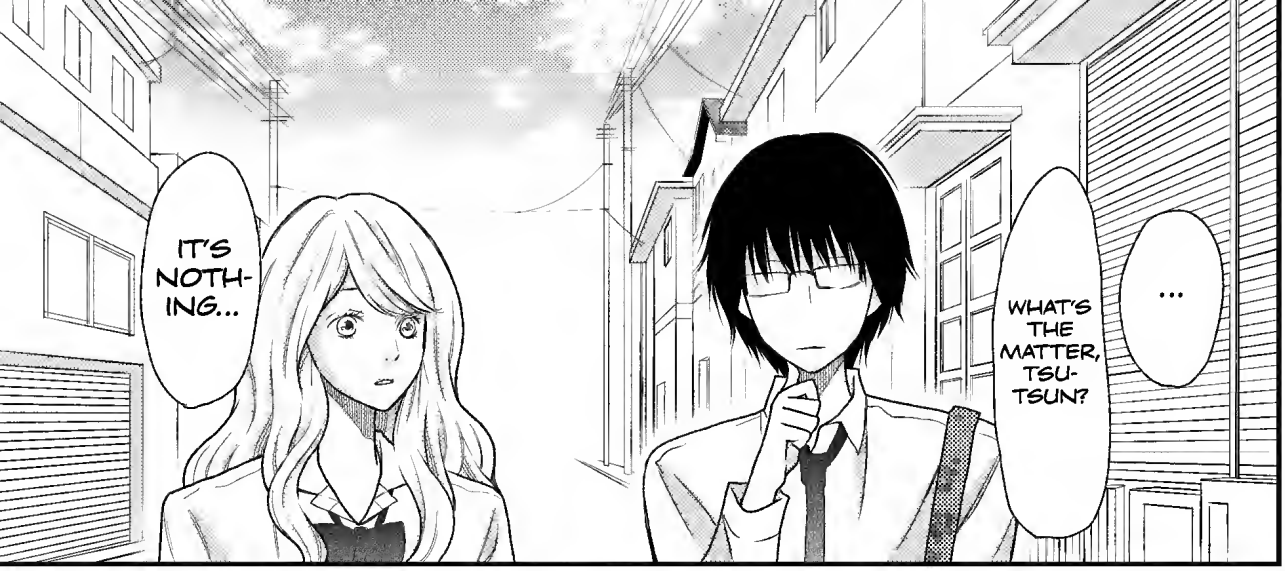
OH, TAKA-NASHI-KUN!
OH, GOOD MORN-ING, ITO...
HUH?
SURE ...
IS IT COOL IF I ASKED YOU ABOUT SOME-THING ...?
I WOND-ER WHAT THAT'S ABOUT ...
ITO AND TAKA-NASHI ...
THAT'S AN UNUSUAL PAIR.
OKAY ...!
CAN WE TALK AFTER SCHOOL?

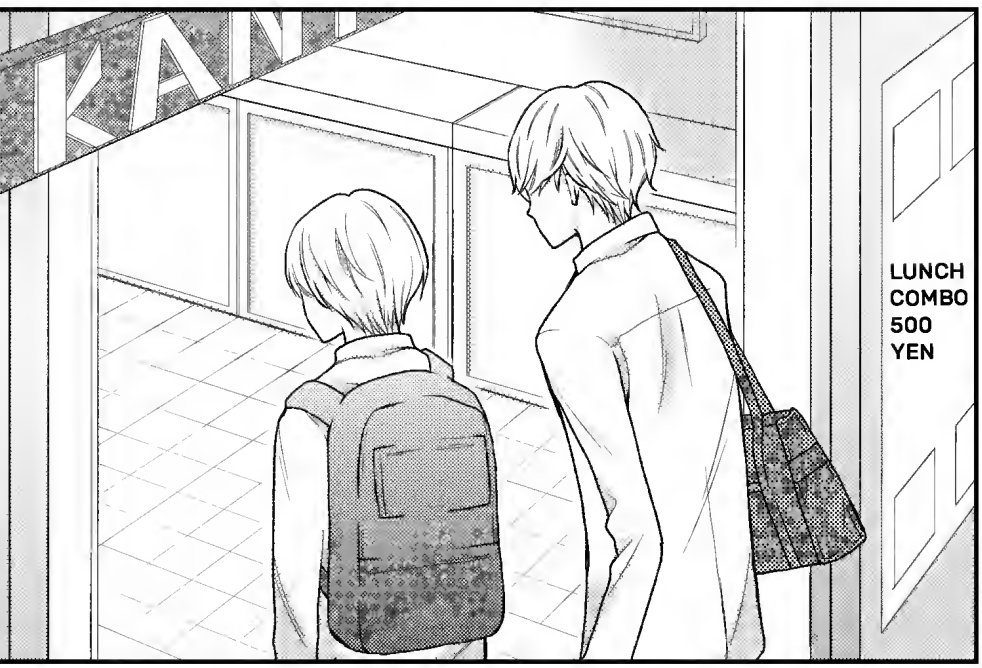
TSU-TSUI.
UH, ITO.

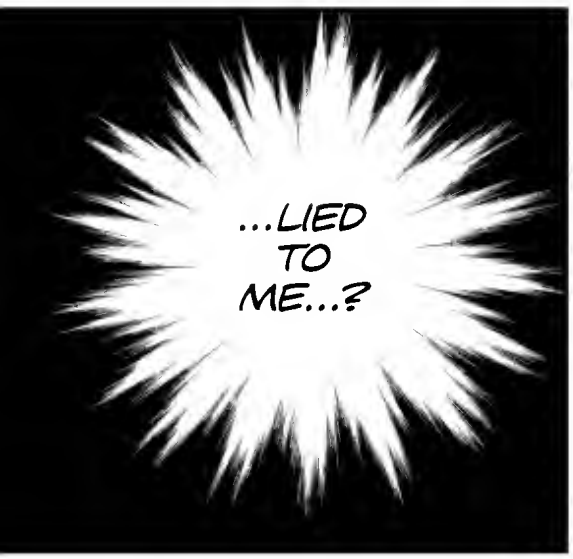
TAKA-NASHI IS—
UH, I MEAN ...
AYADO-SAN IS WAITING FOR ME! SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW!

UH, OKAY ...
UH, I'M IN A BIT OF A HURRY! SORRY!

HM ...?


IT'S NOTH-ING...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, TSU-TSUN?
...


KAN
LUNCH COMBO 500 YEN


...LIED TO ME...?

HUH?
ITO...

HUH?
WHAT DOES ITO WANT TO TALK TO TAKANASHI ABOUT SO BADLY THAT HE'D LIE TO ME...?
WHAT IS THIS FEELING ...?!
I feel like I could cry a bit...
HEY, TSU-TSUN... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
TSUTSUN!
GASP
S...
SOR-RY.
WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?
OUR NEXT HOLI-DAY!
OH, RIGHT.
I...
LAST TIME, WE ONLY WENT TO THE PARK BECAUSE OF ALL THE DRAMA AT HOME....

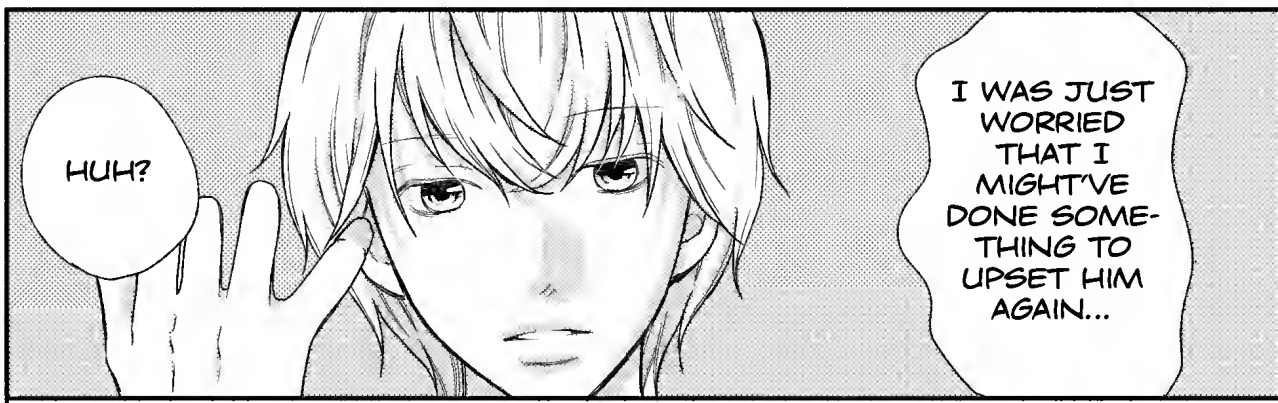
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO THIS TIME?
WEELL...
HMM...
I'LL THINK ABOUT IT.
OKAY.

ITO...
HE'S CLEARLY WORRIED ABOUT SOMETHING...
WHAT'S THE MATTER, ITO...?!
SOMETHING HE CAN'T TALK TO ME ABOUT...
SOMETHING HE CAN'T TALK TO ME ABOUT...
C...
COULD IT BE ABOUT ME...?!
COULD I HAVE UNKNOWINGLY DONE SOMETHING TO MAKE ITO WORRY AGAIN...?
WH...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?!

WHAT'S UP WITH YOU...?
JUST COME WITH ME.
SO?
WHAT IS IT?
UH ...
WELL ...
OUT WITH IT!
I'M GOING BACK IF YOU DON'T HURRY UP AND TELL ME.
WHAT WAS IT THAT ITO WANTED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT?

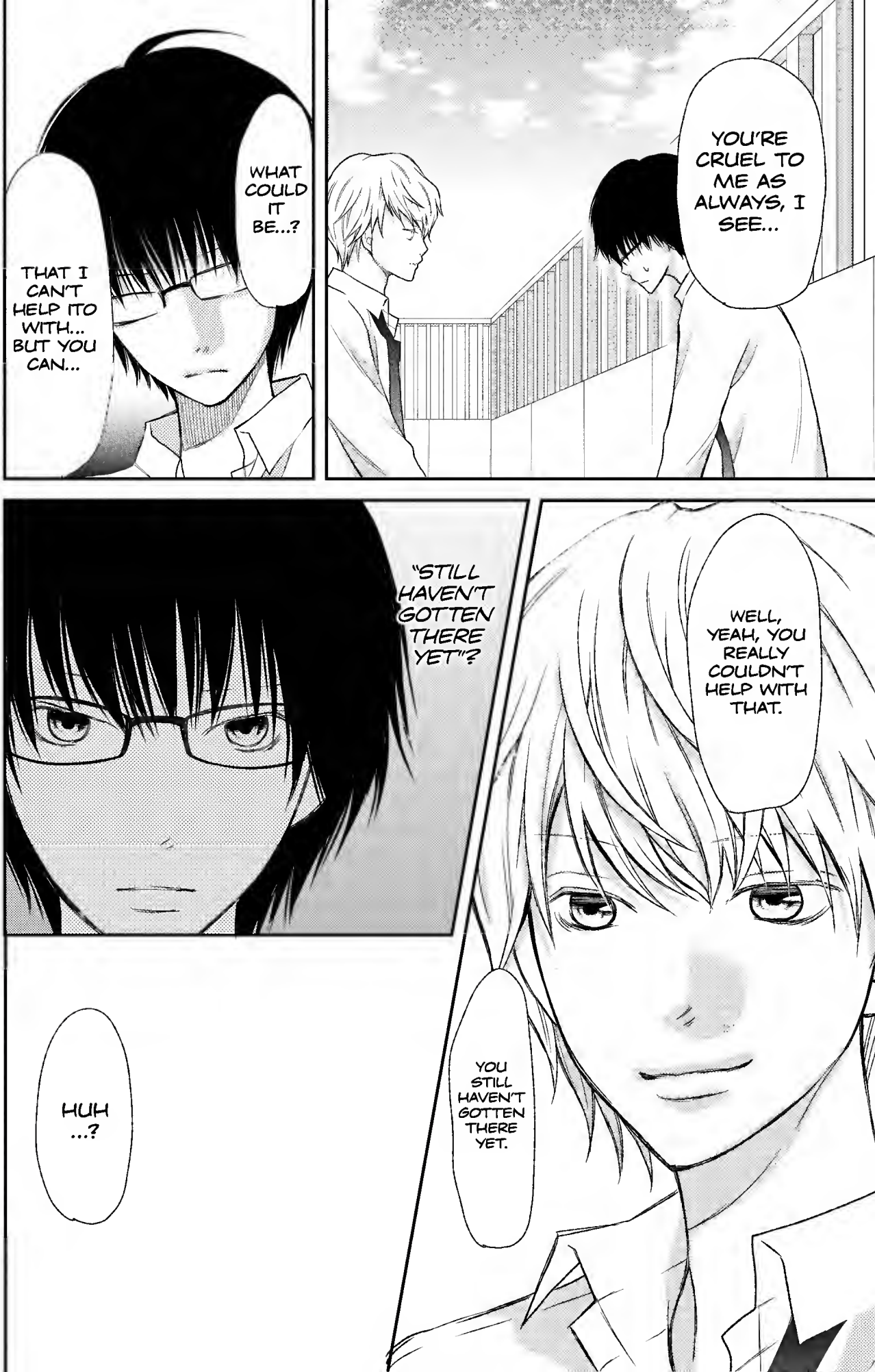
NO !!
YOU'RE NOT... Y'KNOW ...
...JEAL-OUS, ARE YOU?
ARE YOU A GIRL?
Gross.

...
HUH?


HUH?
I WAS JUST WORRIED THAT I MIGHT'VE DONE SOME-THING TO UPSET HIM AGAIN...

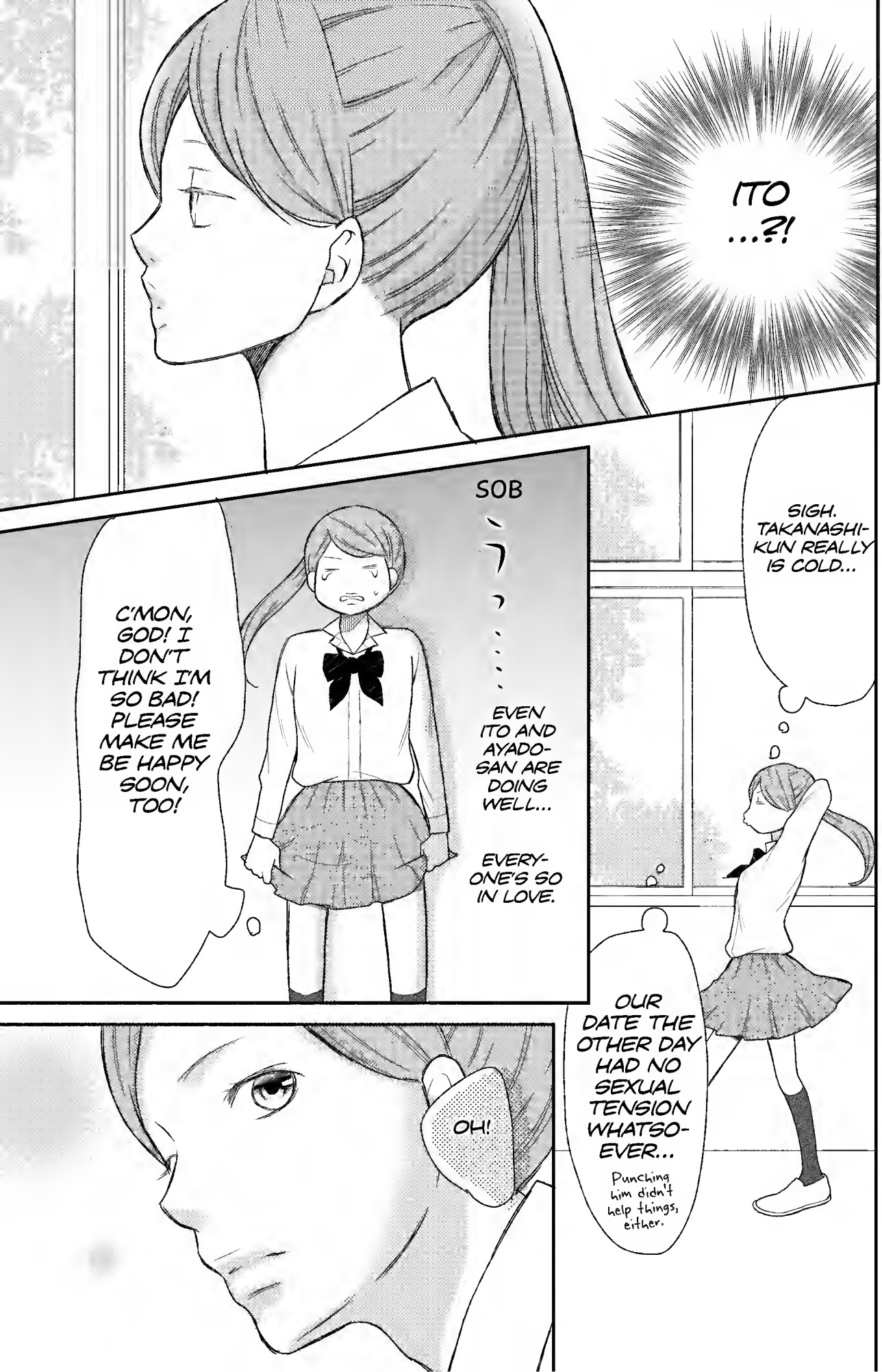
I SEE.
WELL, I'M GLAD TO HEAR.
UH...
NO.
YOU'RE BEING TOO SELF-CON-SCIOUS.

I MEAN, YOU TWO ARE BEST FRIENDS, AREN'T YOU?
IF YOU DID DO SOME-THING WRONG, WOULDN'T HE TELL YOU DIRECT-LY?
Y...
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT...!
THEN WHAT EXACTLY DID YOU TWO-
I ALSO DON'T TALK ABOUT OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS.
To think that Takanashi would put me in my place...
UH...
I SEE...
WELL, YOU KNOW ...
THERE ARE JUST SOME THINGS YOU AREN'T VERY HELPFUL ABOUT.


YOU'RE CRUEL TO ME AS ALWAYS, I SEE...
WHAT COULD IT BE...?
THAT I CAN'T HELP ITO WITH... BUT YOU CAN...
WELL, YEAH, YOU REALLY COULDN'T HELP WITH THAT.
"STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN THERE YET"?
YOU STILL HAVEN'T GOTTEN THERE YET.
HUH ...?

ME.
TAKA-NASHI.
ITO CAN'T TALK TO ME ABOUT GIRL PROB-LEMS...
AND IF I "HAVEN'T GOTTEN THERE YET," THEN...
THE THING THAT'S POLAR OPPOSITE BETWEEN US...
...IS OUR MASCULIN-ITY...?
IN THAT CASE...
...NO...
YOU DON'T MEAN ...

SEXUAL STUFF ...?
TOOK YOU LONG ENOUGH.
HOLD ON. HOW ARE YOU SO SURE THAT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN THERE YET?
YOU CAN JUST TELL.
YOU'VE GOT ZERO SEX APPEAL.
Don't get so flustered.
S...
SEX APPEAL ...?
IT LOOKS LIKE ITO'S GONE AHEAD OF YOU.
HUH?
HUUUUHHH?!

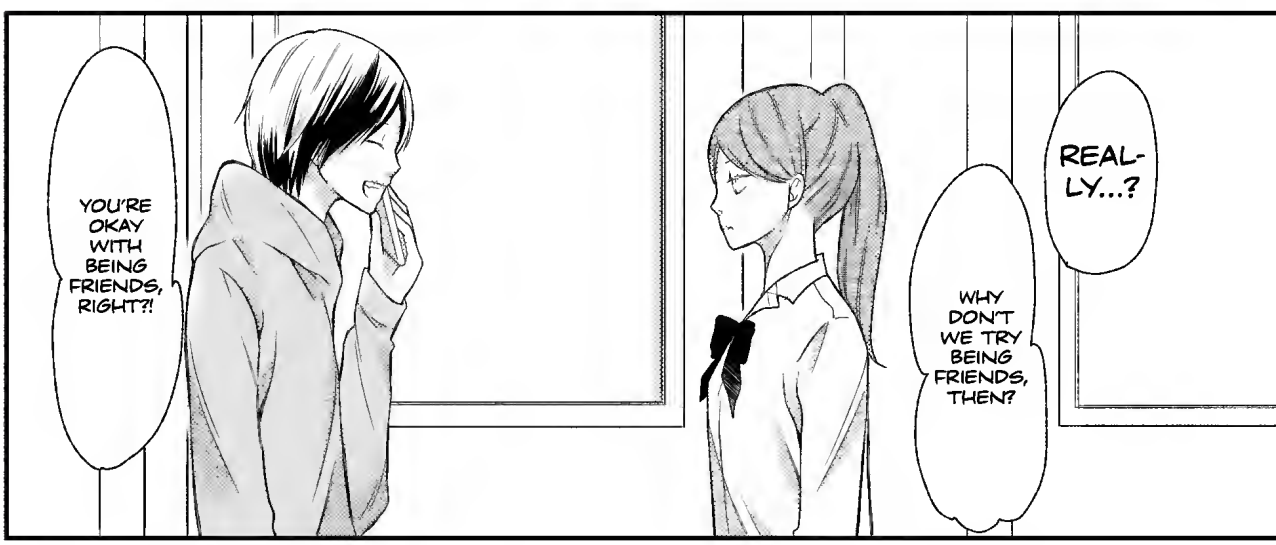

ITO ...?!
SIGH. TAKANASHI-KUN REALLY IS COLD...
OUR DATE THE OTHER DAY HAD NO SEXUAL TENSION WHATSO-EVER...
Punching him didn't help things, either.
SOB
EVEN ITO AND AYADO-SAN ARE DOING WELL...
EVERY-ONE'S SO IN LOVE.
C'MON, GOD! I DON'T THINK I'M SO BAD! PLEASE MAKE ME BE HAPPY SOON, TOO!
OH!

ARIEL!
HM?
HUH?
C'MON! I'M THE GUY THAT WAS WITH MICCHAN AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
AND YOU ARE ...?
OH! I REMEMBER YOU!
YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO ACTUALLY ATE THE ENTIRE STRAWBERRY PARFAIT MUSTARD GARNISH.
HA HA HA!
THAT SURE WAS AWFUL!
That stuff was all over, in every layer!
IS ARIEL YOUR REAL NAME?
HM ...?
IT'S ARISA ISHINO.
ARISA-CHAN!

LET'S HANG OUT SOME-TIME!
HUH?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SO CUTE AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
GIVE ME YOUR PHONE NUM-BER!
C...
CUTE ...?
N...
NO WAY! NO WAY! NO WAY!
ビシィッ
SMACK

You're just trouble!
EVEN I'VE LEARNED FROM THE PAST. I'VE FALLEN FOR SMOOTH TALKERS LIKE YOU TOO MANY TIMES, ONLY TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN OUT TO EXPENSIVE PLACES AND PAYING FOR IT!
THAT'S AWFUL. DO I LOOK LIKE THAT KIND OF GUY TO YOU?

With a hairstyle like that, you're definitely a smooth talker.
YOU DO.
HON-ESTLY,
MICCHAN WAS TALKING ABOUT HOW HE LIKED THE OTHER GIRLS AT THE MAID CAFE, BUT...
...I THOUGHT YOU WERE THE CUTEST ONE, ARIEL!


REAL-LY...?
WHY DON'T WE TRY BEING FRIENDS, THEN?
YOU'RE OKAY WITH BEING FRIENDS, RIGHT?!

MIC-CHAN!
I'M HEAD-ING HOME NOW.
OKAY.
HEY, I BECAME FRIENDS WITH ARIEL EARLIER TODAY!
HUH? ARIEL?!
Who's that?
YOU KNOW! THE GIRL WE SAW AT THE MAID CAFE AT THE CULTURAL FESTIVAL.
OHH... YOU MEAN ISHINO-SAN.
YOU TWO ARE JUST FRIENDS, RIGHT, MICCHAN? THERE'S NOTHING GOING ON BETWEEN YOU TWO?
THAT'S RIGHT ...
THEN DO YOU MIND IF I MAKE FRIENDS WITH HER?

I TOLD YOU BEFORE THAT I THINK SHE'S CUTE!
UH ...?
REALLY? THIS IS ISHINO-SAN YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

HUH ...
Almond-shaped and a pony-tail.
MY PRE-SCHOOL TEACHER AND FIRST LOVE LOOKED JUST LIKE HER!
SURE. SHE'S LOOK-ING FOR A BOY-FRIEND.
SERI-OUSLY ?!

ITO HAS ALREADY GONE OVER TO THE OTHER SIDE...?!
ITO...!

YEAH...
EVEN IF I HAVE A GIRLFRIEND, I'M STILL SO FAINT-HEARTED, AND HE'S BEING CONSIDERATE OF THAT...!

STILL... TO THINK THAT HE WOULDN'T TELL ME...
I FEEL LEFT OUT...
TEARY

TSU-TSUI.
HOW 'BOUT WE CHECK OUT THAT NEW BOOK-STORE THAT–
I'M SO SORRY...
...THAT I'M AN UNRE-LIABLE FRIEND, ITO...
ネガティブ
NEGATIVE
UM, UH!
SORRY, I HAVE PLANS.
UH... OKAY.
I CAN'T...
I WANT TO HEAR WHAT ITO'S GOING THROUGH SO BADLY...
...AND I FEEL SO LONELY...
...THAT I CAN'T TALK TO HIM LIKE I USUALLY DO!

TSU-TSUI.
SORRY, I HAVE TO GO HOME WITH IROHA TODAY.
TSU-TSUI.
OH, I JUST REMEMBERED I FORGOT SOMETHING. GO ON AHEAD.
TSU-TSUI.
SORRY, I HAVE A BUDDHIST MEMORIAL SERVICE TODAY.
TSU-TSUI.
YEAH.
SORRY.

WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HUH?!
SORRY ...
I WAS CURIOUS WHAT YOU WANTED TO TALK TO TAKANASHI ABOUT...
AND I ENDED UP ASKING HIM...

YOU'VE ALREADY BECOME AN ADULT, HUH...
C...
CON-GRATS ...!
HUH ...?
HUH ?!
WAI-!
YOU HAVE IT ALL WRONG! I'M STILL NOT THERE YET!
WHAT I ASKED TAKANASHI ABOUT...
I MEAN, IT STILL...
IT STILL HASN'T HAPPENED YET, BUT...
...THE TRUTH IS, I'M GOING OVER TO AYADO-SAN'S NEXT WEEK...

I FELT LIKE WE'D END UP HEADING IN THAT DIRECTION REALLY QUICKLY WHEN WE'RE ALONE...
SO I WANTED TO ASK TAKANASHI-KUN ABOUT WHAT TO EXPECT...
GASP
SORRY... I'M STILL A BIT EMBARRASSED HAVING THIS KIND OF TALK WITH YOU, TSUTSUI.
NOT AT ALL!
W-W-WE DON'T TALK ABOUT STUFF LIKE THAT! YEAH! SO I'M NOT VERY USEFUL IN THAT REGARD!
Y...
YEAH...

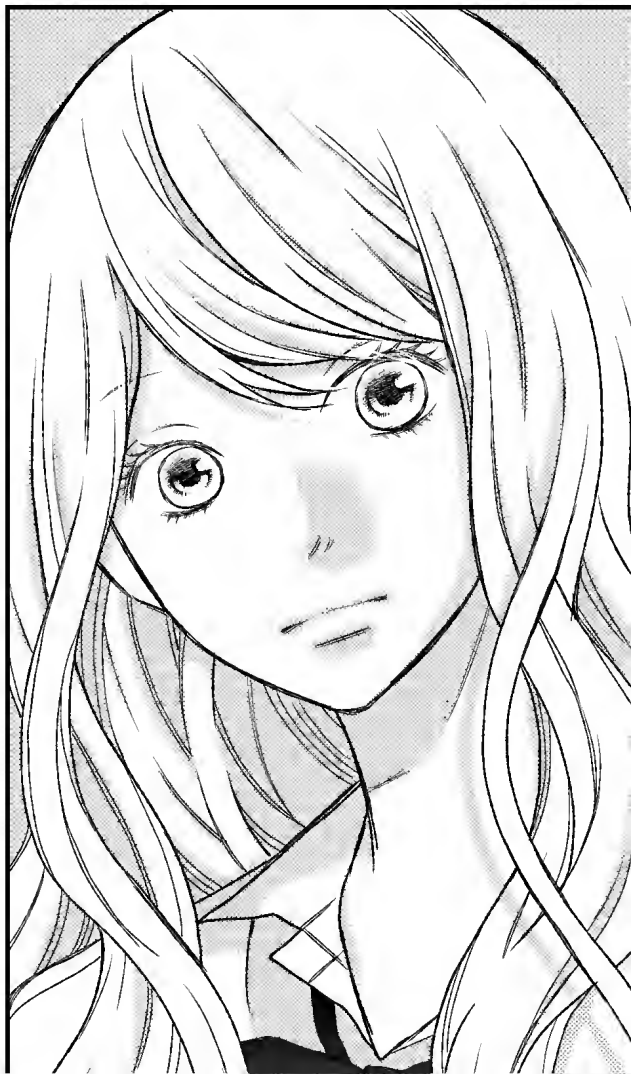
YOU TWO JUST STARTED DATING, BUT THINGS ARE MOVING SO QUICKLY...
WHAT THE HECK IS WRONG WITH ME...?
DON'T SAY THAT!
IT'S DIFFERENT FOR EVERYONE!
WITH AYADO-SAN AND ME...
I FEEL LIKE THE VOID THAT WE'VE HAD IN OUR HEART...
...CAN BE FILLED UP THIS WAY.
RIGHT NOW, WE'VE WANTED TO FILL UP THAT EMPTINESS INSIDE US SO BADLY THAT WE JUST CAN'T STOP.

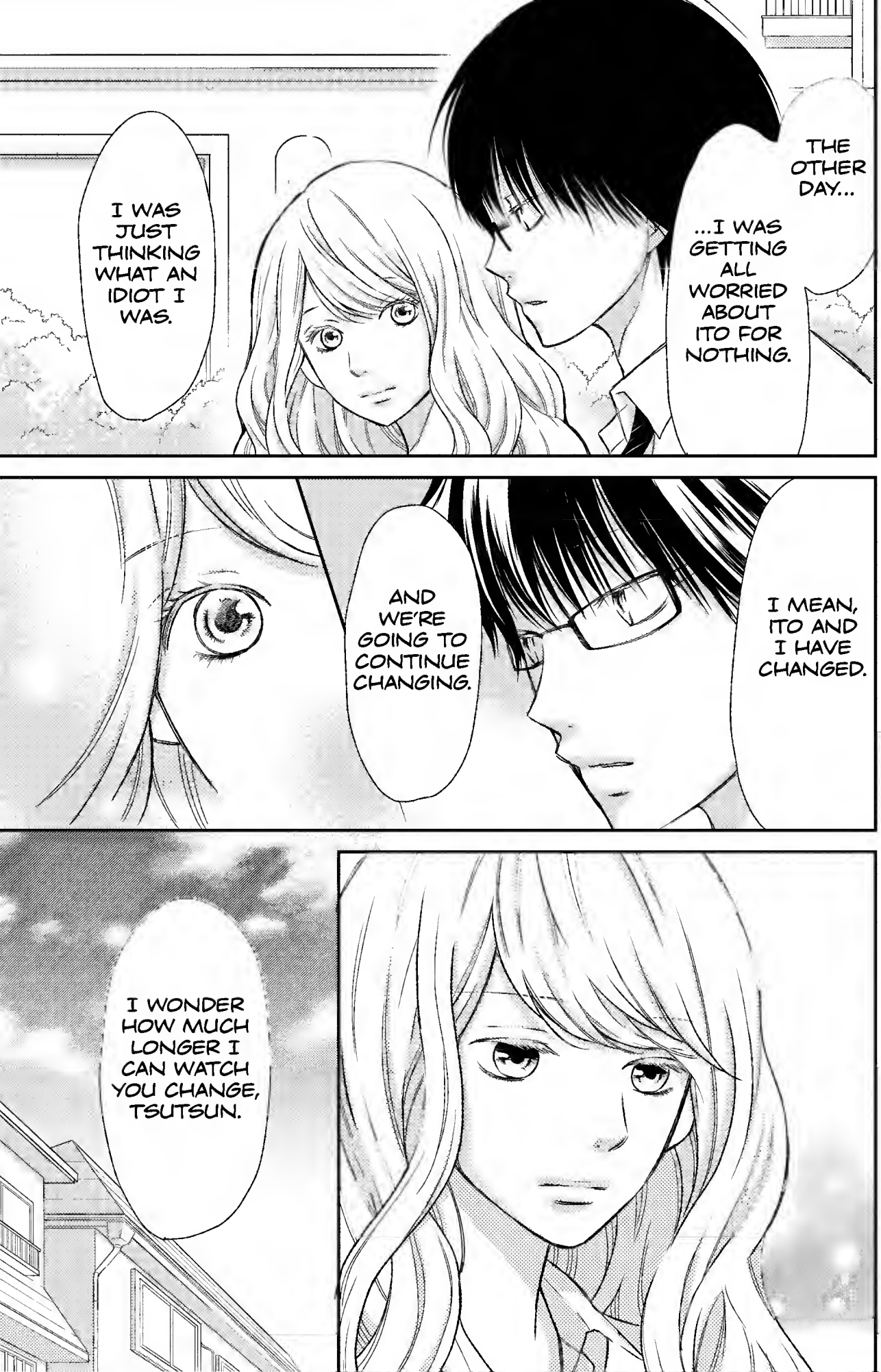
I SEE...
I FEEL BAD FOR THINKING THAT ITO WAS JUST MOTIVATED...
...BY MANLY URGES.
I'm being vulgar.
THAT'S NOT IT.
FOR THE TWO OF THEM...
...THIS IS...
...A NATURAL THING.
HONEST-LY...
I'M SORRY FOR PRYING INTO YOUR LIFE.
NOT AT ALL.

Huh...?
It's all right. That's all natural instinct. I totally get it.
EVEN TAKANASHI-KUN...
...WAS SUPER SLOPPY IN HIS ADVICE.
HONESTLY, I SHOULD'VE TURNED TO YOU INSTEAD, TSUTSUI.
NAW, I REALLY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN OF ANY HELP.
IROHA AND I...
...AREN'T GONNA HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
...IN THE FUTURE, EITHER.

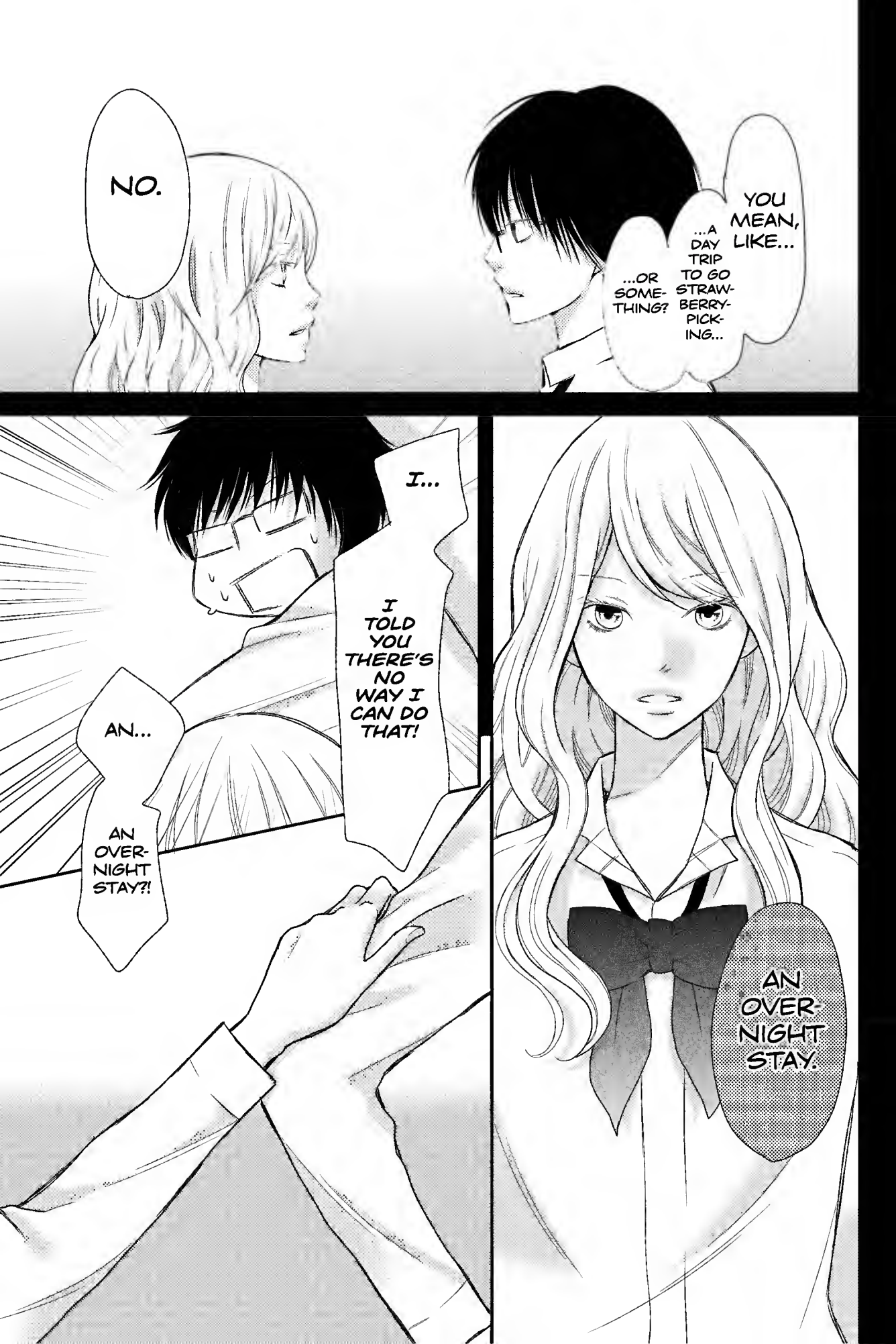
...I SEE.
SO THAT'S WHAT YOU'VE DECIDED, HUH?
YEAH.
SO I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING, BUT...
D... DO YOUR BEST!
Is that appropriate to say...?
UH, OKAY...

WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND THIS TIME, TSUTSUN?
NOTHING. JUST...



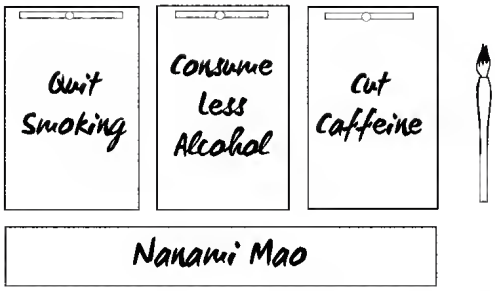

THE OTHER DAY...
...I WAS GETTING ALL WORRIED ABOUT ITO FOR NOTHING.
I WAS JUST THINKING WHAT AN IDIOT I WAS.
I MEAN, ITO AND I HAVE CHANGED.
AND WE'RE GOING TO CONTINUE CHANGING.
I WONDER HOW MUCH LONGER I CAN WATCH YOU CHANGE, TSUTSUN.

I'VE DECIDED WHAT I WANT TO DO FOR THE HOLIDAY!
HUH?
LISTEN!
UH, OKAY.
I'M FINE WITH ANY-THING ...
I TOLD YOU, RIGHT? THAT THIS DECISION IS FINAL.
UH... OKAY.
I WANT TO GO ON A TRIP!


NO.
YOU MEAN, LIKE...
...A DAY TRIP TO GO STRAW-BERRY-PICK-ING...
...OR SOME-THING?
I...
I TOLD YOU THERE'S NO WAY I CAN DO THAT!
AN...
AN OVER-NIGHT STAY?!
AN OVER-NIGHT STAY.

TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 10!!

Well, then! This book was released in March, so you might think it's late, but this is my year's resolution.



I noticed that these resolutions, without any indication of being written by a girl, kinda seem like goals made by a dad! I realized that I feel better the next day when I don't really drink much alcohol.

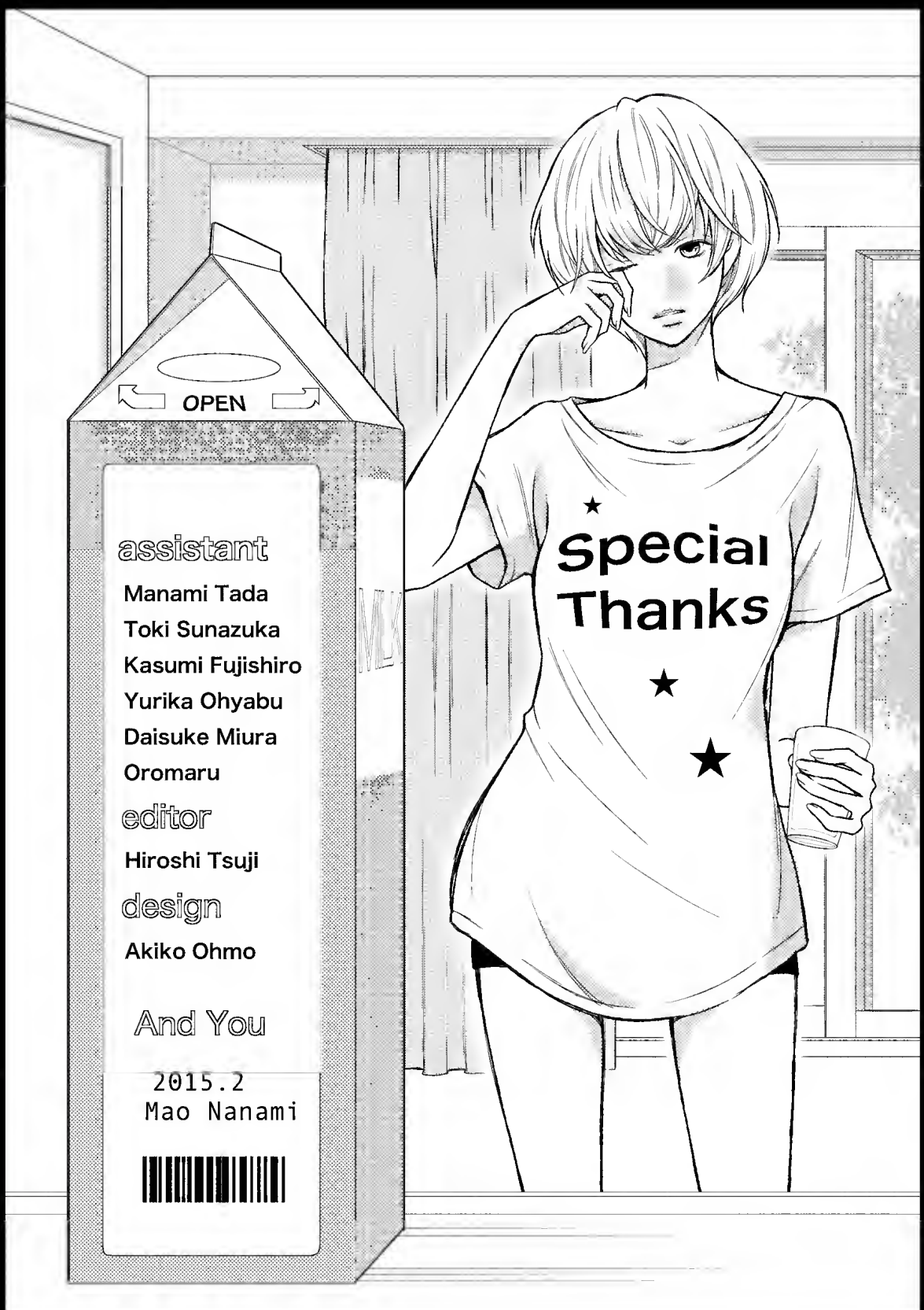
But everyone already knows that! Anyway, I'm hoping to save a little from my dinner drinking at home, at least.

What a pointless thing to talk about, huh!

Who cares what a person's alcohol consumption is!

Sorry. I'm a shut-in, so I spent five days just staring blankly at my computer screen, unable to come up with anything to write about.

And I talked about alcohol again today! Sorry. If you're all right with it, I hope we can get along this year, as well!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And You
2015.2
Mao Nanami
Special Thanks

Real Girl 9

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English digital edition published by Kodansha Advanced Media, LLC, San Francisco.

www.kodanshacomics.com

ISBN: 9781682339169

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

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YKS Services LLC/SKY Japan, INC.